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600054042L

42

1141-

Pl. I.
Pl. II.
371.
373.
376.
382.

No. 1
" 2
" 3
" 4
" 5
" 6
" 7
" 8
" 9
" 10
" 11





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SOUTH DOWN EWES AND LAMBS.
 SOUGHT DOWN EWES AND LAMBS which obtained the First Prizes at the
 Meeting of Church Farm, Babraham Cambridge at Cambridge 1840.

J. W. Gales del.

From the Flock of Mr. Jonas Webb of Church Farm, Babraham Cambridge at Cambridge 1840.
Drawn for the Society of the History of the



A
COMPREHENSIVE HISTORY
OF THE
WOOLLEN AND WORSTED
MANUFACTURES,
AND THE
NATURAL AND COMMERCIAL HISTORY
OF
S H E E P,

FROM THE EARLIEST RECORDS TO THE PRESENT PERIOD.

BY JAMES BISCHOFF, ESQ.

"Now with our Woolly Treasures amply stored,
Glide the tall Fleets into the widening main,
A floating Forest, every sail unfurled,
Swells to the wind and gilds the azure sky."
Dyer's Fleece.

VOLUME II.

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CONTENTS

OF THE SECOND VOLUME.

CHAPTER I.

FROM 1819 TO 1821.

Disturbed state of Clothing Districts—Early Meeting of Parliament—Deputies from Woollen Districts in London—Mr. Maitland's Letter to Lord Liverpool—Meeting at Lord Liverpool's—Mr. James Bischoff's Letter to Sir John Beckett—Petitions to Parliament—Lord Milton's Motion for Repeal of the Wool Tax—Returns of Wool and Woollen Trades—Petition to Parliament—Lord Liverpool's proposal for Free Trade in Wool—Meeting at the Earl of Liverpool's—Free Trade in Wool again proposed—Letters to the Manufacturing Districts—Opinion of Manufactures—Lord Milton's Notice of Motion for Repeal of Wool Tax—On the importance of the Wool Laws—Repeal of the Searching and Stamping Acts—Article from the *Edinburgh Review*.

CHAPTER II.

FROM 1822 TO 1824.

Warehousing Act proposed by Mr. Wallace—Circular to Manufacturing Towns—Cloth and Stuffs exported—Petition to Parliament for Repeal of Wool Tax—Meeting of the Wool Trade in London—Meeting at Lord Liverpool's—Renewed Proposal of Free Trade in Wool—Proceedings in the Clothing Districts—Meeting of Parliament, 1824—Free Trade in Wool proposed by Government—Mr. Robinson's (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) Speech thereon—Mr. Banks's Correspondence with Lord Milton, Lord Harewood, and Mr. Wortley—Meeting of Wool Trades in London—Resolution on return of Duty on Wool in original Bags—Repeal of Duty proposed—Division thereon—Exportation of British Wool proposed—Amendment by Mr. Wortley—Division thereon—Bill passed.

CHAPTER III.

1825.

Mr. James Bischoff's Interview with Mr. Huskisson—Proposed Reduction of Duty on Manufactured Goods from Foreign Countries—Meeting of the Woollen Trade in London—Mr. Bischoff's Letter to Mr. Huskisson—Circular to the Manufacturing Districts—Answer thereto—Meeting with Mr. Huskisson—Opinions of Manufacturers on Mr. Huskisson's Measures—Letter from Mr. James Bischoff to Mr. Huskisson—Meeting with him—Customs Consolidation Bill proposed—Mr. Huskisson's Speech thereon—Bill carried.

CHAPTER IV.

FROM 1827 TO 1828.

Dissatisfaction of Wool Growers—Questions Proposed at the Board of Trade—Prices of Wool—Stocks of Wool—Foreign Cloth Imported—Letter from Mr. James Bischoff to Mr. Huskisson—Prices of Wool, Cotton, Flax—Motion in the House of Commons for the Renewal of the Tax on Wool—Mr. James Bischoff summoned to the Board of Trade—Circular to the Manufacturers—Petitions of Wool Growers—Petitions from London and Manufacturing Districts—Debate in the Commons—Lord Milton's Speech—Mr. James Bischoff's Correspondence with Lord Wharncliffe—Mr. James Bischoff summoned to the Privy Council—Examined by the Duke of Wellington—A Committee of the House of Lords determined upon—The Duke of Wellington's Declaration in the House of Lords—Discussion in the House of Lords—Evidence to be prepared by Manufacturers—Proposed Meeting of the Duke of Richmond and other Leaders of Agriculturists, with the Manufacturers, before the Privy Council, as to the advantages, or otherwise, of a Committee of Inquiry in the Lords—The Meeting declined by the Agriculturists.

CHAPTER V.

1828.

Members of the Committee of the House of Lords—Names of the Witnesses examined—Subjects inquired into, and Evidence given on each, viz.:—1. Former and Present State of the Woollen Manufacture—2. Stock of English Wool on hand—3. Depression in the Price of Wool and Causes—Table of Price of English Wool, 1759 to 1811—4. Past and Present State of Agriculture, in Light and Upland Soils, as dependant on the Folding System—5. Change in the Weight of the Carcase, and the Quality of the Fleece.

CHAPTER VI.

1828.

6th Head. The various Uses of Long and Short Wool—7. Application of Short Wool to Combing Purposes—8. Export and Import of Woollens—9. Effect of Duties in this and Foreign Countries on Wool, &c.—10. Proportion of Home and Foreign Trade in Woollens—11. Change which has taken place in Fineness of Cloth—12. Past and present State and Value of Cloth made solely from British Wool, and of Cloth mixed with Foreign Wool—13. Cloths made wholly of Foreign Wool—14. Effect of Cotton on Woollen Manufacture—15. Woollen Rags and their Application—16. Wools of Australia.—Subjects not alluded to in the Committee of Lords:—1. Quantity of Wool grown in the United Kingdom—2. Exportation of British Wool—3. Qualities of Foreign Wool—4. Qualities of British and Irish Wool.—5. Cost of Manufacture—6. Former and present State of Woollen Manufacture in Great Britain—7. Former and present State of Woollen Manufacture in Foreign Countries, and their Means of competing with British Manufactures.

CHAPTER VII.

1828 AND 1829.

Report of the Lords' Committee—Earl Stanhope's Notice of Motion thereon—Lord Wharncliffe's Question to the Duke of Wellington—Discussion thereon in the House of Lords—A Letter to the Owners and Occupiers of Sheep Farms, by Earl Stanhope—Abstract of Evidence taken before a Select Committee of the House of Lords, appointed to take into Consideration the State of the British Wool Trade, by Earl Stanhope—The Woollen Question Considered ; being an Examination of the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Lords appointed to take into Consideration the State of the British Woollen Trade, and an Answer to Earl Stanhope's Letter to the Owners and Occupiers of Sheep Farms, by James Bischoff—On the Wool Trade, with Considerations on the Effect of Duty on Importation, by Edward S. Swaine—Table of the Exports of Woollens to Foreign States, and to British Possessions—Resolutions moved by the Duke of Richmond, 1829—Table of Weights of Wool exported—Discussion in the House of Lords—Tables prepared by the Duke of Richmond.

CHAPTER VIII.

1829 to 1837.

Practical Observations on the Improvement of British Wool, and the National Advantages of the Arable System of Sheep Husbandry, by Joshua Kirby Trimmer—Letter from the British Consul at Nantz respecting Dyeing—Correspondence thereon—Duties paid on Olive Oil and Dyeing Wares—Rates of Wages in the Wool Trade prior to and since the Introduction of Power Looms—Committee of the House of Commons on Banking and Trade—Sheep ; their Breeds, Management, and Diseases, by W. Youatt.

CHAPTER IX.

The Sheep of Africa and Asia—Sheep of Egypt—Ethiopia—Abyssinia—Madagascar—Cape of Good Hope—Angola—Guinea Coast—Barbary—Persia—Thibet—Cashmere Shawls—Sheep of India, with Particulars of the Sheep of the Himalayan Mountains, Ceylon, Java, China, and Tartary—The Argali—The Merino Sheep of North America—The Alpaca of Peru—Sheep of Australia.

CHAPTER X.

Sheep of Sweden—Norway—Denmark—Iceland—Hanover—Flanders—Holland—Russia—Introduction of Merinos into Russia—Russian Sheep's Wool—Wallachia—Moldavia—Moravia—Greece—Turkey—Cyprus—Savoy—Switzerland—Spain—France—Prussia—Prussian Statistics—Sheep of Saxony—Hungary.

CHAPTER XI.

British Sheep—New Leicester Sheep—South Down Sheep, their effect on the English Fleece—Lord Western's Anglo-Merino Sheep.

CHAPTER XII.

Woollen and Worsted Manufactures ; difference in Processes described—Processes in Woollen Manufacture enumerated—Processes explained, viz., Scouring the Wool—Dyeing, in Wool and Piece—Willying—Willying Machine described—Moating—Oiling—Scribbling—Carding—Carding Engine described—Slubbing, Slubbing Billey—Spinning—the Mule—Joint Stock Scribbling, &c. Mills—Weaving, by Hand-loom, by Power-loom—Scouring the Cloth—Drying—Burling—Fulling—Fulling Mill described—Improved Fulling Mill—Raising or Teazling—Cost of Teazles—the Gig Mill or Teazling Mill—Atkinson's Card Raising Gigs—Cropping or Shearing—Hand Shears—Machine Shears—Oldland's Cutting Machine—Mozing—Boiling or Patenting—Brushing—Picking—Drawing—Marking—Pressing—Packing.—Processes in Worsted Manufacture enumerated—Processes explained, viz.,—Washing—Drying—Plucking—Combing—New Combing Machine of Platt and Collyer—of Rawson and Donisthorpe—Carding—The Hindu Loom—The European Loom—Warping or Reeling—Warping Mill—Weaving—Figure Weaving—Jacquard Engine introduced into Yorkshire, by Messrs. Akroyd, of Halifax—Rate of Wages in the County of Gloucester—Decrease of Manufactures in Wiltshire—Rate of Wages in Yorkshire—Prices of Food used in Greenwich Hospital—Felting—The Stocking Frame, invention of.

CHAPTER XIII.

Retrospective Glance at the Rise and Progress of the Woollen Trade—Early Existence of the Woollen Trade in Great Britain and Ireland—Flemish Manufacturers introduced by William the Conqueror and Henry I.—Location of the Flemings—Cloth Fair established by Henry II.—Extension of the Manufacture in this Reign—Decrease in the Reign of John, Henry III., Edward I., and Edward II.—Flourishes under Edward III.—Account of it, from "Fuller's Church History"—Subsequent Fluctuations—Location of the Woollen Trade in the Reign of George III.—Impetus given to it by the formation of Roads and Canals—Fine Cloth Manufacture in Yorkshire—Reflections on Causes tending to foster or depress Manufactures—Lord Grenville's Speech on the Freedom of Commerce—Decline of Manufactures in Wiltshire—in Gloucestershire—General decline—Imputed to restrictions on Trade—Appeal to British Statesmen—Imputations on Manufacturers repelled—Still unexhausted Resources of British Commerce.

LIST OF PLATES.

ASIATIC AND AFRICAN SHEEP	Frontispiece, Vol. I.
SOUTH DOWN SHEEP, MR. WEBB'S	Ditto Vol. II.
NEW LEICESTER, MR. CHAMBERLAYN'S ...	Vol. II. p. 371.
SOUTH DOWN SHEEP, MR. GRANTHAM'S ...	„ II. 373.
ANGLO MERINO GROUP, LORD WESTERN'S ..	„ II. 376.
ANGLO MERINO RAM, LORD WESTERN'S ..	„ II. 382.

TABLES.—APPENDIX TO VOL. II.

Luccock and Hubbard on English Wool	No. 1
Bales and Weight of Wool Imported.....	„ 2
Wool Imported from various Countries	„ 3
Cloths Milled in Yorkshire	„ 4
Houses and Population of the West Riding of York- shire	„ 5
Wool and Woollen Trade, with prices of Wheat and Mutton	„ 6
Quantities of Wool and Woollens exported.....	„ 7
Prices of Wheat in England and Berlin.....	„ 8
Prices of Mutton at Smithfield in each Month	„ 9
Foreign Trade of Great Britain	„ 10
Table of prices of Wheat in England and Berlin.....	„ 11

HISTORY

OF THE

WOOLLEN TRADE, &c.

CHAPTER I.

FROM 1819 TO 1821.

Disturbed state of Clothing Districts—Early Meeting of Parliament—Deputies from Woollen Districts in London—Mr. Maitland's Letter to Lord Liverpool—Meeting at Lord Liverpool's—Mr. James Bischoff's Letter to Sir John Beckett—Petitions to Parliament—Lord Milton's Motion for Repeal of the Wool Tax—Returns of Wool and Woollen Trades—Petition to Parliament—Lord Liverpool's proposal for Free Trade in Wool—Meeting at the Earl of Liverpool's—Free Trade in Wool again proposed—Letters to the Manufacturing Districts—Opinion of Manufacturers—Lord Milton's Notice of Motion for Repeal of Wool Tax—On the importance of the Wool Laws—Repeal of the Searching and Stamping Acts—Article from the *Edinburgh Review*.

HAVING in the first volume given extracts from the different pamphlets published in 1820, it is proper to state the proceedings of the manufacturers during the same period, showing the exertions made by them, in order to obtain the repeal of the tax on foreign wool.

Parliament was, in consequence of the disturbed state of the country, called together at a much earlier period than usual. Meetings of large bodies of people had assembled in the manufacturing districts of Lancashire and Yorkshire, whose professed object was a Radical Reform in Parliament, from which they were called Radicals. The military had been called out at Manchester, and had made an attack on the people, in which several lives were lost; and much dissatisfaction in consequence prevailed.

A general meeting of deputies from the manufacturing districts, anxious for the repeal of the wool tax, was held at the Guildhall Coffee House, on the 8th December, 1819, John Maitland, Esq., chairman :—

Present—Messrs. Brice Pearse, Sheppard, Tellford, Bischoff, Burgess, London ; Gott, Banks, Jowitt, Nevins, Fisher, Aldam, Leeds ; Nussey, Walker, Trustees of the Leeds Cloth Hall ; Fawcett, Thompson, Bradford, Yorkshire ; Fisher, Brook, Huddersfield ; Newell, Rochdale ; Hutchinson, Grundy, Bury, Lancashire ; Gandy, Kendal ; Harvey, Norwich ; Riley, Bermondsey ; Pardo, Lea, Broom, Kidderminster ; Akroyd, Halifax ; Edward Sheppard, Hicks, Phillips, Playne, H. Sheppard, Overbury, Stancombe, Cooper, Saunders, Pool, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, and Somersetshire.

A letter from J. A. Stuart Wortley, Esq., M.P. for Yorkshire, to Mr. Bischoff, was read, informing the meeting that the Earl of Liverpool, (First Lord of the Treasury,) would receive the deputation on the following day, 9th December. It was determined,—

“ That the meeting being exceedingly anxious to impress upon the minds of His Majesty’s Ministers the injurious effects of the tax on foreign wool, consider that the most effectual way of doing so will be by the attendance of all now present at the interview with Lord Liverpool ; for, though the meeting is numerous, it consists of merchants and manufacturers from the various districts differently affected.

“ That in order to prepare Lord Liverpool for that meeting, the following letter be addressed to his Lordship :—

“ My Lord,

“ It will be in the recollection of your lordship and the Right Honourable the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that in the month of June last, when a duty of sixpence per lb. was proposed to be laid on the importation of foreign wool, some of the gentlemen now present had the honour of an interview, in which they endeavoured to show the ruinous consequences which they apprehended would inevitably result from that tax. The meeting now assembled, consisting of a deputation from almost every place in Great Britain where the woollen manufacture is carried on, beg again to state to your lordship their most serious apprehension of the ruin which

must arise to themselves and to their respective districts, if that tax is not repealed.

“ The manufacturers have found the various European markets supplied by the manufactures of Flanders, France, and other districts on the continent, and that the cloth and other woollen goods manufactured there were better adapted to those markets than any that were then sent from England; the manufacturers, therefore, of this country were obliged to imitate their fabrics, and by the mixture of foreign wools with those of England, they had succeeded in obtaining a footing upon the continent, and had sanguine hopes that those extensive and lucrative markets would again be supplied from this country, and in the same manner as they were before the late wars.

“ The tax on foreign wool will deprive them of the means of doing it; for with this heavy increase to the price of the foreign raw material, they are totally deprived of the means of manufacturing woollen goods, either of qualities or prices that can meet the competition of their rivals.

“ The tax on foreign wool injures them not only by making it impossible for the manufacturers to get foreign coarse wool, but, in a similar proportion, causing a depreciation of foreign wool to their continental rivals, in proportion to the quantity of wool which the English manufacturers consumed being thrown upon their hands.

“ Your lordship may also be aware, that the King of Spain has, in consequence of the tax, reduced the duty on the exportation of wool from thence about sixpence per pound, which is alleged by the Spaniards to be equal to the duty imposed here, and to put the Spanish grower upon an equal footing with the English grower of wool. Your lordship will see the effect of this measure on the British manufacturer; for, as that duty was laid on all wool exported from Spain, as well to France and Flanders as to England, the duty is reduced to them as well as to us, and the tax on the importation here has become a higher rate on the value; and this tax alone, without any of its concomitant effects, gives a bounty of about 15 per cent. to our foreign rivals.

“ The deputation are prepared to show your lordship, that not only the foreign manufacturers who have been our rivals in the European markets view this tax as giving a bounty to them, but that countries which exported large quantities of wool to this country consider it highly beneficial to themselves, as it will induce them to establish manufactures to work up their own wool.

“ The deputation do not feel justified in stating what the revenue might be increased by this tax, but they conceive that by the loss

of the exportation of woollen manufactures, which by the Custom-house returns amount to about seven millions per annum, to foreign countries, exclusive of the exportation to British colonies, more revenue must be lost to the Treasury, than can be gained by this tax.

“ The deputation will not trespass upon your lordship’s valuable time, more than to express their conviction, that if the tax be persisted in, increased distress must fall upon several large districts in England embarked in the woollen trade, the buildings will be useless, property depreciated, and population deprived of support, compelling both the master manufacturer and the workman, with their capital and ingenuity, to emigrate, and find employment in other countries ; and they are particularly anxious to make the consequences known to His Majesty’s ministers, without agitating the public mind on the subject, and they trust that ministers will themselves propose the repeal of this tax.

(Signed)

“ JOHN MAITLAND, Chairman.”

The deputation met at the King’s Arms Tavern, Palace Yard, on the 9th of December, and, in consequence of an intimation from Lord Liverpool that only a few gentlemen should wait upon him on the following day, it was resolved,—“ That all the deputies should meet at the King’s Arms Tavern, and be in readiness, if required ; but that the following be appointed personally to wait upon Lord Liverpool:—Mr. Maitland, Mr. Bischoff, Mr. Gott, Mr. Banks, Mr. Harvey, Mr. Sheppard, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Hutchinson, and Mr. Gandy.

“ That the Members of Parliament favourable to the repeal be requested to attend at a meeting to be held at the King’s Arms Tavern, Palace Yard, on the 12th December.”

The whole deputation being permitted to attend at Lord Liverpool’s, were accompanied by the following Members of Parliament:—Lord Milton, Lord Lowther, Lord Edward Somerset, Mr. Stuart Wortley, Mr. Wilberforce, Sir James Graham, Sir William Guise, Mr. Long Wellesley, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Harvey, Mr. G. Langton, Mr. Dickenson, Mr. Gurney, and Mr. Pearse.

After a long discussion, it was determined by Lord Liverpool, that the subject should be referred to the Board of Trade and the Privy Council.

The Ministers present were—The Earl of Liverpool, First

Lord of the Treasury ; Mr. Vansittart, Chancellor of the Exchequer ; Mr. Robinson, President of the Board of Trade. Mr. Huskisson was also in attendance.

The deputation attended the Board of Trade according to appointment, and met there—Mr. Robinson, President of the Board of Trade ; Mr. Wallace, Vice-President ; Mr. Vansittart, Chancellor of the Exchequer ; Mr. Huskisson, and Lord Lowther.

After several interviews, the deputies returned to the country without receiving any satisfactory information.

Mr. Bischoff wrote to Sir John Beckett, with a summary of the evidence, of which the following is a copy :—

“ London, 30th December, 1819.

“ My dear Sir,

“ Being exceedingly anxious to know as soon as possible the impression which has been made upon His Majesty's Ministers, by the information given by the manufacturers who were lately in town endeavouring to obtain a repeal of the tax on foreign wool, I trust you will excuse the liberty I take in addressing you on the subject.

“ I hope the evidence will have shown the serious injury which the woollen manufacturers are now suffering from the effects of the tax ; and if you peruse the minutes taken at the Board of Trade, I think it will be evident that we can expect no improvement in our foreign trade in woollens so long as this tax continues ; and till this tax is removed, those descriptions of English wools, viz., the fine clothing wools, merino, South Downs, &c. which were intended to have been benefited by this tax, cannot improve in price, though the coarse wools may experience a temporary rise.

“ The manufacturers from Kendal, Bury, Rochdale, Kidderminster, and those employed in the coarser fabrics of Yorkshire, showed that when wool was dear in 1817 and 1818, they were unable to sell their goods without heavy loss ; that in foreign markets they could not obtain prices equivalent to the price of wool ; that they found great competition from foreign manufacturers, and, besides being obliged to submit to heavy sacrifices, they lost a great portion of their trade ; they mixed up a great deal of foreign coarse wool in their different articles, which, besides enabling them to make them cheaper, improved their fabrics, and made them more favourable for foreign markets, and unless they continued to receive those wools, they must confine their manufactures to the home trade.

“ The manufacturers from the West Riding of Yorkshire, who principally make cloths and cassimeres from a mixture of foreign wool with English wool of middle qualities, also showed the injurious effects this tax is now producing on their articles : they proved, I think, to the satisfaction of the Lords of Trade, that the South Down and merino wools will not by themselves make cloth suitable either to this or foreign countries, and that the importation of wool is as beneficial to the English grower of this description of wool as to the English manufacturer ; and they also showed, that the competition of the manufacturers of Brabant, &c. is now so great, that if by the tax on importation, the foreign wool should rise in price, the English manufacturer must either abandon his foreign trade, or purchase the English wool, which he mixes with the foreign, at a price as much reduced as the foreign is advanced ; that is, if he wants 2 lbs. of wool, one foreign and one English, for each of which he gave 2s. per lb., and by the tax the foreign is raised to 2s. 6d., he must give 1s. 6d. for the pound of English wool, or four shillings for the two pounds together.

“ With respect to the manufacturers of cloth made entirely of foreign wool, there appeared to be only one point on which all did not agree. There were manufacturers of superfine cloths and cassimeres from Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Somersetshire, and Yorkshire, and, with the exception of Messrs. Sheppards, who said they had an advantage of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. over foreigners in cloth of their very finest qualities, all agreed that the struggle with the foreign manufacturers was nearly equal ; that they had great difficulty in meeting them ; and it was shown, that in consequence of the wool thrown into the markets of Flanders, France, and Prussia, the price in those countries is now 15 per cent. lower than it is in this country, which is equal to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on cloth to their advantage, according to Messrs. Sheppards' opinion, and according to the opinion of all others, an advantage to the foreigners of 15 per cent., thereby obliging them to discontinue those trades.

“ Such are the consequences which I think it appeared would result to the manufacturers from different descriptions of wool.

“ It was also, in my opinion, shown, that the exportation of manufactured woollens consumed about one-third of all the wool, both of foreign and English growth, manufactured in the kingdom, and consequently the loss of our foreign trade, or any considerable diminution of it, must leave upon the hands of the farmer a quantity of wool for which there will be no demand, and in proportion to that quantity the price must fall.

“ I trust you will find the above statement confirmed by the minutes taken by the Lords Commissioners of Trade. It was also

asked if the effects of the tax are now felt, or if the present stagnation could in any degree be attributed to it, and I think that was shown to be the case,—the price of wool in the foreign manufacturing districts being at present 15 per cent. lower than it is here, the English manufacturers are afraid to make goods which must meet their foreign competitors under such disadvantages, and therefore had not executed their orders, and dare not put them forward. If the tax was repealed, prices on the continent and England would be equalized; the English manufacturer would have no fear, and would again employ his workmen and dependants. Believe me to remain,

“ Dear Sir,

“ Your faithful Servant,

“ JAMES BISCHOFF.

“ Basinghall-Street, 30th Dec., 1819.”

The following petition was presented to the House of Commons 4th May, 1820, by Mr. Wilson, member for London, and supported by Mr. Alexander Baring :—

“ The humble petition of the merchants, manufacturers, and traders in wool and woollen manufactures, resident in London,—

“ SHEWETH,

“ That a tax of 6d. per lb. was imposed upon the importation of foreign wool by the last Parliament, and the bill was brought forward at so short notice, that your petitioners and others were prevented by the forms of your Honourable House from laying the hardship of their case before Parliament.

“ Your petitioners, therefore, now humbly and respectfully, but most earnestly entreat the early attention of your Honourable House to the extreme injury arising from this tax.

“ Your petitioners are aware that general commercial distress is felt by them, in common with others, but are confident that this tax has most materially increased the distress of your petitioners and others embarked in the woollen trade and manufacture.

“ Your petitioners are convinced that your Honourable House will see that this tax, which is contrary to the system heretofore uniformly pursued, and to all acknowledged rules of political economy, must inevitably prevent the importation of *coarse wool*; and your petitioners believe it cannot possibly raise the price of *English wool*. It must also cause the price of the fine wools of Spain and Saxony to be always higher here than they can be purchased by manufacturers on the continent, which must prove fatal to the districts heretofore employed in manufacturing superfine cloth and

cassimeres for exportation, and thereby transfer what has hitherto been considered *the staple trade of Great Britain*, and one great source of her wealth, prosperity, and power, to other nations.

“ Your petitioners do not, however, rest their case upon apprehension or opinion, though well-grounded. *They now actually feel these effects.* They have with sorrow seen foreign merchants, who were in the habit of procuring their woollen goods in England, refusing to purchase more cloths and other woollen articles, and going from hence to the manufacturers on the continent, in order to buy their goods there, because they can obtain them at a lower price, and have not been able to execute foreign orders, which would have given great employment to a distressed population, because they could not compete with foreign manufacturers.

“ Your petitioners beg leave further to state to your Honourable House, that, under the fullest confidence that property would continue to be protected by those laws which have so long existed in regard to the wool and woollen trades, large capital has been embarked in erecting manufactories, and providing machinery and utensils for carrying them on, which establishments will cease to be of any value if this tax is continued, and the landed property in the neighbourhood of manufacturing towns will also be materially depreciated.

“ Your petitioners also humbly represent, that the city of London, the metropolis of the empire, will sustain serious loss in consequence of the reduced importation of wool, and that share in the exportation of woollen goods which it has usually enjoyed, the want of freight for shipping, and employment for labourers and seamen.

“ Your petitioners, moreover, cannot divest from their minds an apprehension that this tax was consented to, not so much with the expectation of increasing the public revenue as to satisfy the feelings of some leading and respectable members of the Agricultural Associations. They, nevertheless, do not suppose that the late House of Commons, the great landed interest of this country, or the leading members of Agricultural Associations, would have suggested it as a relief to them, if they had been aware that it would sacrifice so numerous, so useful, and so industrious a class of their fellow subjects, who have at all times borne their share of the public burdens, and contributed to the strength, prosperity, and dignified independence of the empire; and that instead of operating in a way beneficial to the landed interest, by raising the price of their wool, it must, in the opinion of your petitioners, produce an effect exactly the reverse.

“ Your petitioners confidently trust that your Honourable

House will immediately repeal this destructive tax, and again afford to the woollen manufacture, and the commerce of this country, that protection which, in every former period of history, they have received; and if your Honourable House are not sufficiently satisfied that the effects of the tax are and must be such as have been stated, your petitioners humbly pray that they may be heard by their counsel at the bar of your Honourable House.

“And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray,” &c. &c.

Petitions for the repeal of the tax, varying in their prayer according to the effects which they respectively felt, were presented from Leeds, Huddersfield, Wakefield, Lancashire, Gloucestershire, Bristol, Batley, Gomersal, Armley, Kendal, Norwich, Hull, Leicester, Rochdale, Ripponden, Saddleworth, Morley, Horsforth, Montrose, Wiltshire, Nottingham, Kirkheaton, Somersetshire, Bury, Exeter, Mirfield, Calverley, Eccleshill, Darlington.

On the 26th May, 1820, LORD MILTON, member in the House of Commons for Yorkshire, moved for leave to bring in a bill for the repeal of the tax on foreign wool.

Mr. STUART WORTLEY, also member for Yorkshire, seconded the motion.

The previous question was moved by Mr. VANSITTART, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and supported by Mr. HUSKISSON; and on a division there were—

For the previous question 202

For the original motion 128

Majority for Ministers 74

The exportation of woollen manufactures in the four years 1816, 1817, 1818, and 1819, were, upon an average each year

To *bona fide* foreign countries £6,266,417

To British colonies and dependencies... 2,636,669

Total £8,903,086

1816 £10,200,927

1817 8,404,528

1818 7,958,927

1819 9,047,960

£35,612,342

Average £ 8,903,086

So soon as Parliament assembled in 1821, preparations were made to take measures with a view to obtain the repeal of the tax on foreign wool.

On the 2nd of February, 1821, Mr. Wilson, member for London, moved for the return of wool imported and woollens exported.

Petitions were presented from the manufacturing districts.

The following is a copy of the petition from London:—

“ The humble petition of the merchants, manufacturers, and traders in wool and woollen manufactures, resident in London,

“ SHEWETH,

“ That during the last session of Parliament many of your petitioners set forth, in a petition to your Honourable House, the injurious effects of the tax on foreign wool, and prayed that your Honourable House would repeal the said tax, but which prayer your Honourable House were not pleased to grant,

“ Your petitioners now again most earnestly and most respectfully beg leave to represent to your Honourable House, that the consequences they have anticipated have been realised.

“ That the importation of foreign wool into the port of London has been much reduced, in consequence of which a two-fold injury has accrued to this country, for the employment thereby afforded to the merchants, manufacturers, seamen, and labourers, as well as for the capital, buildings, and shipping of the metropolis of the empire, has in a great measure ceased, and there has been a proportionate decrease of demand from foreign countries for our woollen manufactures the prices of both foreign and English wools have in consequence continued to fall, causing distress to the country.

“ That the quantity of foreign wool which used to be imported, and worked up in England, has by this tax been forced upon foreign markets, thereby enabling the manufacturers on the continent to purchase it at a lower price than that at which it could be imported or bought here, and by such means to undersell the British manufacturer.

“ That your petitioners have seen, with the utmost concern, measures pursued by foreign governments (some of which your petitioners believe to have been adopted by way of retaliation upon this country, for the loss they sustain in being deprived of our markets for the sale of their wools) which your petitioners conceive incontrovertibly prove the great impolicy of the tax, inasmuch as it deprives this city and country of many branches of its trade and manufactures, most useful and beneficial to the state.

“ Your petitioners beg leave particularly to draw the attention of your Honourable House to the prohibitory system adopted in Spain, which will totally prevent a variety of articles of British manufacture from entering into that country : also to the measures adopted by the government of France, where a small tax has been imposed upon the importation of wool, and a large bounty allowed on the exportation of cloth. The system adopted by Russia is also equally injurious to your petitioners ; for, by the imposition of a heavy tax on the *weight* of all woollens *arriving by sea*, they encourage their own manufactures by excluding the coarse woollens of England : and by relaxing that duty on woollens *arriving by land*, a decided advantage is given in Russia to continental manufacturers, and encouragement to the coarse fabrics of Prussia and Flanders, to the exclusion of those of England.

“ Your petitioners might draw the attention of your Honourable House to the policy adopted by other countries, equally injurious to our trade, but they content themselves by stating to your Honourable House, that the merchants of this country suffer greatly from the difficulties they have in obtaining returns in the produce of foreign countries, which returns afford beneficial employment to the population of this country.

“ Your petitioners conceive that the article of sheep's wool is more valuable to this country than most others that are imported into it, as, from its great bulk, it affords considerable employment for the merchants' vessels, and much of it is afterwards sent to foreign countries in a manufactured state, thus paying the British manufacturer for his labour and skill, and again giving freights to our ships, and employment to our seamen.

“ Your petitioners admit that they have not any means of accurately ascertaining the amount of revenue raised by this tax, though they believe it must fall short of the sum estimated ; but even should the amount be more, your petitioners humbly conceive that the country will suffer infinitely greater injury by the effects which this tax must have on various branches of the trade and commerce of the country, than it will derive benefit from the product of the tax itself.

“ Your petitioners further humbly conceive that this method of raising revenue is contrary to every acknowledged principle and maxim of political economy, as well as at variance with that system upon which the woollen manufacture of Great Britain has preserved its importance to the country : and your petitioners beg leave to state, that they have positive evidence that the tax is daily depriving many of the most useful members of the state of an employ-

ment at once healthful and beneficial to themselves and their families ; whilst, as your petitioners believe, the tax operates with no inconsiderable degree of injury on owners and occupiers of land, inasmuch as it occasions a decrease in foreign trade ; and that decrease not only tends to reduce the value of wool grown in this country, but increases the burden of the poor rates by causing a cessation of employment for our population.

“ Finally, your petitioners beg leave respectfully, but sorrowfully, to state, that the tax has already operated as a bounty to foreign manufacturers, and must gradually transfer to other countries those beneficial means of supporting their population, which have, by every British statesman, in every age and under every administration, been cherished and protected as one of the principal sources of the happiness and power of the British Empire.

“ Your petitioners, therefore, again most respectfully and most earnestly implore your Honourable House to take the case of your petitioners into serious consideration, and to repeal the tax on foreign wool.”

On the 13th March, 1821, Lord CALTHORPE presented two petitions in the House of Lords for the repeal of the duty on foreign wool.

The EARL of LIVERPOOL rose only to offer one observation on what had fallen from his noble friend. He was convinced, from much inquiry, that the duty so deprecated by the petitioners did not operate to the injury of the manufacturers, who also had an alternative of evils, if evils they really were ; but at the same time, if new facts and statements had come out, subsequently to the first investigation, he for one had certainly no disposition to evade them. It had originally been offered to them, before the enactment of new duties, that if they themselves would agree to a free export of wool, then Government would relinquish the duty now complained of. But of two supposed evils, he understood the manufacturers had preferred the latter as the least. It was desirable that this proposal should be distinctly understood, not merely by the petitioners, but likewise by the country at large. Had they acceded to the proposal for the free export of wool, then the duty would not have been laid on.

Lord MILTON applied to Lord Liverpool for an interview respecting wool, which was fixed to take place on the 22nd of May.

In order to prepare the Earl of Liverpool and His Majesty's Ministers for the meeting, the following

“ OBSERVATIONS ON EVIDENCE given before the PRIVY
 “ COUNCIL respecting the Effects of the Tax on Foreign
 “ Wool, and on the Petitions to Parliament praying the
 “ Repeal of the Tax,”—

were drawn up and sent to Lord Liverpool, and copies were afterwards sent to every member of Parliament.

“ It was given in evidence, as appears by the minutes printed by order of the House of Commons, 11th May, 1820, that *‘the stocks of woollen goods in the United States of America were then run off, and they must require fresh supplies, and it was expected that the trade would revive with considerable activity in the spring, if a fair chance was given; but the manufacturers would not dare to act upon that conviction, if they were to give sixpence per pound more for their wool than foreign competitors.’*

“ The following is the state of trade in the three last years, with the United States of America, in woollen goods manufactured from short clothing wool, viz., cloths, coatings, kerseymeres, flannels, and blankets :—

Amount exported in the year ending 5th Jan., 1819	£2,130,408
Ditto, being the two years since the tax on	{ 1820 £1,116,873
wool was imposed.	{ 1821 684,949

“ The following facts will account for this decrease :—

“ The quantity of wool which was forced by the tax upon foreign markets at reduced prices, has enabled foreigners to undersell the English manufacturers, and given great encouragement to the manufactures of the United States.

“ Besides the coarse German wools left upon hand, which have been sold to the manufacturers of Prussia and Holland, large shipments have been made from Portugal and Spain to Holland and the Netherlands; the price of wool has consequently fallen in some instances to about two-thirds of its former value.

“ The wools of Portugal, almost all of which used to come to England, have fallen in price in the following manner :—

1818	3,400'reis	per arobe.
1819	2,000	ditto.
1820	1,200	ditto.

The price, therefore, has sunk from 10s. to 5s. 9d. the arobe for wool unwashed, in which condition it is subject to waste from two-thirds to three-quarters in weight. The English buyers, however, who had formed establishments in Portugal for the purchase of wool, and had invested British capital to a large amount there for that object, have in consequence of this tax altogether abandoned that branch of trade, which has since been taken up by the Dutch merchants, and an establishment is formed for the purchase of wool in Portugal, which is shipped from thence to Holland. The price, in consequence of this competition, has again advanced to 1600 reis per arobe. There is, therefore, no inducement now for an Englishman to establish himself in Portugal for the purchase of wool, as he must always have to pay the tax of sixpence per pound more than the foreigner ; and though the price of wool abroad is reduced more than the amount of tax imposed here, he can never meet the foreign manufacturer in an open market.

“ Similar reductions have taken place in the price of wool in Spain and other countries. The manufacturers, therefore, in Prussia and Flanders, having now an advantage over us in the first cost of their wool, receive it into their factories, and have made large shipments of their cloths and other articles to the United States of America, as well as to other countries, and undersell the British manufacturer wherever they meet in competition.

“ Mr. John Bainbridge gave the following evidence before the Foreign Trade Committee of the House of Commons, in answer to a question—Do you think, with respect to Russia, Sweden, and Prussia, that the increased means of paying for our manufactures would not induce an increased consumption? —Ans. I believe the woollen manufactures in Prussia are in such a state as to compete with us completely ; I speak of it particularly, because we are in the habit of having transactions with the United States of America ; and I find that a very considerable proportion of fine woollens, and of low woollens and stuffs, are absolutely shipped from the Nether-

lands, and from parts contiguous, part of which I understand to come from the interior of Germany, and from Saxony in particular; so that a portion of the trade which we have been in the habit of transacting with the United States of America, is finding its way from the north of Europe. I therefore conceive that their manufacturers are competing very much with the manufacturers of this country, and consequently they would not come to us to receive a supply of those articles which they can procure from their own manufacturers.

“ Mr. Bainbridge has, since that communication, stated that he has been for many years in the habit of receiving an order to remit money to Leeds, for account of a house in Boston, annually, to the amount of £6,000 for woollen goods, but those orders have been executed the two last years at Verviers, Aix-la-Chapelle, and other places in Prussia, Holland, and Germany, but for which he still pays by remitting the money from London to manufacturers there.

“ Other instances of a similar nature can be produced, and particularly of Mr. Thomas Dixon, of New York, who used to draw his supplies of manufactured articles from England to a great extent, but now sends great part of his orders to Prussia and the Netherlands.

“ The state of the woollen manufactures in the United States of America is best shown in a letter from Bilboa, dated 21st February, 1821, which mentions that large shipments of wool are making from that port. It was written in answer to a letter from a merchant in London, requesting that a Spanish ship might be loaded with wool for London:—
‘ It is hard to say when he, Captain Orbeta, may be despatched, as he has not yet been promised the freight of a single bag; and most assuredly he would have been loaded by this time as well as the others, had it not been for the singular circumstance that three American vessels have entered this port with orders for considerable purchases of wool, destined for Marblehead and Boston.’

“ Shipments have also been made to the United States of America of wool from St. Andero, Cadiz, Lisbon, Hamburg, Liverpool, and London.

“ If their manufacturers did not require foreign wool, they would not import it; but the fact is, they now do require it,

and know how to mix it with their native wool, and find that it enables them to make good cloth, upon the same principle that the English manufacturers used to act, by importing foreign to work with their own wool.

“ These facts show, that though the stocks of manufactured woollens in the United States of America were small, which afforded reason to expect that there would have been large orders if the tax on the raw material had not interfered, and prevented the possibility of keeping our superiority with such a clog about our necks, they have got their supplies of woollen goods from other countries, encouraged their own manufactures, and so long as the tax continues, the English manufacturer cannot meet the foreigner in that market.

“ The trade in woollens to all countries, including the United States of America, but exclusive of colonies and British dependencies, has fallen off since the tax was imposed, being—

1819.	1820.	1821.
£6,436,897.	£4,221,166.	£3,607,194.

whilst the trade to British colonies has increased—

1819.	1820.	1821.
£2,611,063.	£2,678,527.	£2,671,970.

“ The branch of trade which has declined is also chiefly confined to goods manufactured from short clothing wool, upon which the tax has had such an injurious effect :—

	Made from Short Wool.	Long and Short Wool mixed.	Long Wool.
	£.	£.	£.
1819	5,829,573	614,532	2,603,854
1820	4,361,334	391,978	2,146,381
1821	3,742,059	328,180	2,208,925

“ The trade in stuffs has remained nearly the same, and the trade in cotton manufactures has increased considerably; it is therefore fair to infer, that if the wool tax had not been imposed, the capital, the industry, and the enterprising spirit of the woollen manufacturer would also have succeeded in an equal proportion with the cotton manufacturer.

“ Having no official documents to show the reduced price of wool, there is more difficulty in coming to an accurate

statement. The committee, have, however, made the best inquiry they are able, and find that foreign wools (having the tax paid,) have fallen in price about one quarter; and that South Down, and other fine English wools, have fallen about one-half!!”

A statement was added to the above, showing that in France, Russia, and Spain, duties on the importation of British woollens had been considerably raised, in consequence of the tax laid upon the importation of foreign wool in England. In conclusion, a comparison of the trade of Smyrna was given, viz., imports and exports:—

MARSEILLES.	GREAT BRITAIN.
Wool exported to 5,000 Kintals.	Wool exported to 2,000 Kintals.
Cloth imported from 925 Bales.	Cloth imported from 30 Bales.
Value.....£92,000	Value.....£3,000

whilst the Levant used formerly to be supplied with woollens almost entirely from Great Britain.

May 23, 1821.—A meeting was held, by appointment, at the house of the Earl of Liverpool; Mr. Vansittart, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was with him.

The Earl of Harewood, Lord Milton, Mr. Stuart Wortley, and Mr. Wilson attended, with Mr. Maitland, and Mr. James Bischoff.

Lord MILTON stated that the object of the meeting was to endeavour to make Ministers acquainted with the injurious effects of the tax on foreign wool: he was supported by the other gentlemen present.

Lord LIVERPOOL did not think the distress in the woollen manufactures, and the decreased trade therein, were caused by the tax on wool; and with respect to the manufactures of the United States of America, he considered they were mere experiments, and would be ruinous to those embarked in them.

After a long discussion, the Earl of LIVERPOOL stated that Government would consent to the repeal of the tax on the importation of foreign wool, provided no opposition was given to the repeal of the laws which prohibit the exportation of English wool, so as to allow its free exportation.

This proposition was strongly opposed by Mr. Wortley, Lord Harewood, and Mr. Wilson, who mentioned the great importance of the worsted trade of this kingdom. Finding, however, Lord Liverpool determined—

Mr. WORTLEY proposed, that the duty on importation should be repealed, and a Committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the effects which the free exportation of English wool would probably produce.

Lord LIVERPOOL objected to it, and stated that the duty on imported wool would be repealed on no other terms than the free exportation of English wool.

Having no power to consent to that condition, and feeling the great importance of the question, time was allowed in order to obtain the sentiments of the manufacturers.

In consequence of the result of this interview, the following letter was sent to Benjamin Gott, Esq., Leeds; John Harvey, Esq., Norwich; J. Broom, Esq., Kidderminster; J. Waterhouse, Esq., Halifax; J. Worthington, Esq., Leicester; J. Gandy, Esq., Kendal; Richard Fawcett, Esq., Bradford; Ed. Sheppard, Esq., Uley; Jerh. Naylor, Esq., Wakefield; J. Brook, Esq., Huddersfield; E. Phillips, Esq., Melksham; H. Sheppard, Esq., Frome:—

“ London, 23d May, 1821.

“ Sir,—A meeting was held at the Earl of Liverpool’s this morning, at which his lordship and Mr. Vansittart were present. We were accompanied by the Earl of Harewood, Lord Milton, Mr. Stuart Wortley, and Mr. Wilson, (member for London,) who all very ably supported our application for the repeal of the tax on foreign wool, when, after a considerable discussion, it was proposed by the Earl of Liverpool that ‘the tax should be repealed provided the manufacturers would withdraw their opposition to the exportation of English wool; but unless that was distinctly understood, the tax would not be repealed.’

“ Having no authority to accede to such a proposal, and declining to give an opinion upon it, time was allowed to ascertain the sentiments of the manufacturers on the subject. You will please to observe, the proposal of the Earl of Liverpool is to allow the *free* exportation of English wool; but Lord Milton and Mr. Wortley both conceive, that a protecting duty of sixpence per lb. on the wool exported will be conceded to the manufacturers if required. Under these circumstances, we have to request that you

will ascertain the sentiments of the manufacturers in your neighbourhood thereon, and to be so obliging as to inform the Chairman of this Committee thereon as early as possible.

(Signed)

“JOHN MAITLAND, Chairman.”

The following was the result :—

Leeds, Halifax, Huddersfield, Bradford, Exeter, Leicester, and Kendal, declined to accept the repeal of the tax on importation of foreign wool, at the expense of the manufacturer from long wools.

Gloucestershire, Somersetshire, and Wiltshire will not oppose the exportation of British wool, depending upon such measures being adopted by duty on exportation, as will secure to the manufacturers from long wool, their present trade.

Mr. CURWEN, member for Cumberland, giving notice that he should move for the repeal of the tax on horses used in agriculture—

Lord MILTON gave notice, that if Mr. Curwen succeeded, he should move that the committee be instructed to insert a clause for the repeal of the foreign wool tax.

Under the impression that when that measure was discussed, the exportation of English wool would be proposed, the London Committee sent the following to the members of both houses of Parliament :—

“ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LAWS WHICH PREVENT
“EXPORTATION OF ENGLISH SHEEP AND WOOL.

“The long wools of Lincolnshire, Kent, &c., are peculiar to Great Britain, and, so far as they give employment to the country, are highly valuable.

“Short clothing wool can only be doubled in value by the process of manufacture; but long wool is capable of bearing so much labour, that it may be increased to fifteen times its value; the lowest estimate which is made is four times its value, and upon this, which is the most unfavourable, to show the importance of long wool, the following will prove the increasing value of this trade to the country.

“The value of stuffs and worsted goods exported is about £2,500,000, of which the labour costs about two millions sterling.

“ The following amounts were sent to—

	Russia.	Germany.	Holland.	Flanders.
1816	£1,462.....	£59,354.. ...	£56,556.....	£7,574
1817	4,722.....	80,244.....	62,341.....	13,326
1818	60,111.....	170,052.....	42,542.....	15,630
1819	126,409.. ...	245,845... ..	45,404.....	29,260
1820	106,551.....	223,302.....	47,613.....	18,121
1821	119,607.....	316,119.....	44,992.....	24,714

“ Making the total of—

1816	£124,946	1819	£446,918
1817	160,633	1820	395,587
1818	290,335	1821	505,432

“ The long wool of Great Britain is alone wanted by those countries to enable them to manufacture stuffs, by mixing it with their own coarse wool; if, therefore, the project mentioned by His Majesty’s Ministers, to repeal the laws which prevent the exportation of English sheep and wool, should be carried into effect, the exportation of stuffs, as well as all other descriptions of goods made from worsted, to those countries, must be inevitably lost. It therefore becomes a matter of serious consideration, when labour is so much wanted for the lower classes, if it would be prudent to allow the exportation of a raw material capable of affording so much employment, and of giving subsistence to an immense population, and to transfer it to foreign countries, who now purchase the manufactured article from Great Britain in its most perfect state.

“ But it is contended, that it is unjust to deprive the English farmer of the opportunity of selling his wool to foreigners; if so, it is equally unjust to prevent the English manufacturer from obtaining his bread from foreigners, till the wheat of the English farmer has attained an exorbitant price; the restrictions are intended for the good of both, and if the agriculturist should succeed in getting the repeal of the laws, and be enabled to supply the foreigners with wool, it would be most unjust to prevent the English manufacturer from purchasing his wheat where he can get it the cheapest.

“ There will, however, be no difficulty in showing, that whenever wool was allowed to be exported, it fell in price, and when it could not be exported it rose in price. Our ancestors have so long seen the wise policy of keeping our wool at

home, that we must look back a century in order to get the proof of this fact.

“ The following are the prices on record :—

			£.	£.	s.	per pk.
Before 1696 (war)	the price of wool was		12	to	16	0 „
1696 to 1702 (peace)	do.	do.	9	„	11	0 „
1702 to 1713 (war)	do.	do.	12	„	14	0 „
1713 (peace)	do.	do.	7	„	7	10 „

“ During the prevalence of the plague in France, when all communication was prohibited, the price of wool was £11 to £12; and after the long peace, and during that period, it fell to £4 10s. to £5. The following reasons are given for this in a book published in 1739 :—

“ ‘ The French got a quantity of our wool to mix with their coarse wool worth £2 to £2 16s; so that they were able at a cheaper rate to supply foreign markets, which used to buy our goods. France imported yearly 500,000 packs, out of 800,000 packs, the produce of Great Britain and Ireland; the number of carders, scribblers, and combers was reduced, two-thirds having gone to France; and even the small number that remained had not full employment.’

“ The same consequences would now follow the exportation of English wool; and consequently the English farmer would suffer by the price of his wool, and still more, by the loss of the manufacturer, who is now the best customer for his mutton, the most valuable part of the sheep, and for the produce of the soil. The grower of long wool, too, has neither complained of the price he obtains for it, or has reason to complain; the price in 1790 was 18s. per tod, it is now 30s., and there is no accumulation of stock. Would the farmer be wise to ruin his first and best customer in the hope of getting another? to part with the substance and follow the shadow?”

June 18.—Mr. STUART WORTLEY would take this opportunity of asking his noble friend, Lord Milton, what he intended to do with respect to his notice of motion for the repeal of the wool tax?

Lord MILTON said that he had no intention of bringing it on at present, as he did not wish to trouble the house with an unavailing discussion; for though he was sure that a great

many gentlemen would support him in moving for its repeal, after what had occurred with respect to the husbandry horse tax, it would appear that the landed interest, towards which he felt a certain degree of prejudice, did not require to be reinforced in that house; and he would ask of those who were the protectors of those interests, to show the manufacturing interest that they also deemed that worthy of the support of Parliament. He hoped that in the next session of Parliament, they would prove by some boon granted to the latter, that those comprehended in it were not less the object of the care of the legislature than any other class in the community. For many centuries the woollen trade had been the particular care of the legislature: they had protected it in a manner perhaps not altogether wise; but certainly they ought not to abandon a manufacture which had been so much favoured by their ancestors,—they ought not to leave it to be preyed upon by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who chose to place a heavy tax on a raw material.

Mr. STUART WORTLEY would really suggest to his noble and right honourable friends below, (his Majesty's Ministers, Lord Londonderry, Mr. Vansittart, Mr. Huskisson, and Mr. Robinson,) to look narrowly upon this tax. They would find upon examination, it produced nothing like what it was estimated to the revenue, whilst in effect it was destroying the export trade in woollens, and affording no protection to the grower. He therefore requested the attention of Government to this tax, and hoped they would take into their serious consideration the impolicy of continuing it.

A petition was presented this year from the merchants, manufacturers, and others interested in the woollen manufacture of the West Riding of the county of York, setting forth,

“That an act was passed 11 Geo. II. entitled ‘An Act for the better regulating the manufacture of narrow woollen cloths in the West Riding of the county of York:’ that another act was passed 5th George III., entitled ‘An Act for repealing several laws relating to the manufacture of woollen cloth in the county of York; and also so much of several other laws as prescribes standards of width and length of such woollen cloths, and for substituting other regulations of the

cloth trade within the West Riding of the said county, for preventing frauds in certifying the contents of the cloth, and for preserving the credit of the said manufacture at the foreign market; and that another act was passed, (6 George III.) to amend the last mentioned act; -that the petitioners are greatly aggrieved by the operation of such laws applying to the stamping, stretching, and searching of woollen cloth in the West Riding of Yorkshire, and they would respectfully intimate to the House, that these laws have been found troublesome, vexatious, and expensive, the execution inapplicable to the present state of the woollen manufacture, and quite unavailing for the purpose for which they were originally enacted. The petitioners, therefore, humbly prayed, that a select committee of the House be appointed to examine into the matter; that the petitioners be allowed to give evidence before such committee; and in case they shall satisfactorily establish the premises, that the House would repeal the present laws so aggrieving to the petitioners, or make such amendments therein as to the wisdom of the House may seem meet.'

A committee was in consequence appointed, Mr. Stuart Wortley, chairman, who reported thereon, and those several acts of Parliament were repealed.

On the 12th July, 1823, the following article appeared in the *Scotsman*, or Edinburgh Political and Literary Journal. The data for the paper were furnished by the compiler of these Memoirs, and great part is in his own words; it was completed and inserted by Mr. Mc. Culloch, and was afterwards, with additions, made a leading article in the *Edinburgh Review*.

"WOOLLEN MANUFACTURE.

"DUTY ON FOREIGN WOOL IMPORTED.

"Up to a very recent period the woollen manufacture was of greater importance and value than any other branch of our manufacturing industry, and though now surpassed by the cotton manufacture, it still continues to be one of the principal sources of our wealth and power. Sir Frederick Morton Eden, in his elaborate and valuable work on Insurance, estimates the value of the woollen manufactured goods annually consumed in Great Britain at eleven millions: and, if to this we add seven millions, which is about the value of

the annual produce of this manufacture exported, it will make the total value eighteen millions. The value of the raw material has been estimated by Sir Frederick M. Eden, and others, at one-third the total value of the goods, or at six millions, leaving a sum of twelve millions as the aggregate amount of profits and wages. It is difficult to ascertain the precise portions in which this sum is divided between capitalists and labourers. We believe, however, we shall not be far wrong if we suppose the manufacturers' profits, and the sum necessary to indemnify them for the wear and tear of machinery, and the value of capital in general, to amount together to 18 per cent of the twelve millions, or £2,160,000, leaving £9,840,000 as the total amount of wages obtained by the workmen. We have, however, been assured, on what we consider good authority, that £15 may be taken as a fair average of the annual wages obtained by the various descriptions of individuals in this department of industry. Now, if we divide the gross amount of wages, or £9,840,000, by this sum, we get 546,000 as the total number of workmen. And, considering the comparatively limited extent to which children are employed, we may, on the most moderate hypothesis, double the number of workmen to get the whole number of persons supported by the wages of labour in the woollen manufacture. Exclusive, therefore, of the master manufacturers, or of those who live on the profits of stock, it is plain that no fewer than 1,100,000, or one-thirteenth part of the inhabitants of Britain are supported by the woollen manufacture,—a manufacture, it must be recollected, of which more than one-third of the produce is regularly exported to other countries.

“ Dr. Colquhoun, and the witnesses examined by the committee of the House of Commons in 1800, concur in representing the aggregate value of the woollens annually manufactured, and the number of persons employed, as considerably greater than we have now stated. But the statements we have laid before our readers, though greatly within the mark, are more than sufficient to demonstrate the paramount importance of this manufacture, and the extreme impolicy of any measure having a tendency to endanger so fruitful a source of employment and of wealth.

"Instead, however, of continuing that protection and favour to this manufacture which it had enjoyed for centuries, and instead of attempting to relieve it from the various trammels and restrictions which the friendly but mistaken zeal of a less enlightened age had imposed, the late Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed, in 1819, that a duty of sixpence per lb. should be laid on all foreign wool imported. This measure had a double purpose. It was intended not only to raise a revenue, but to operate as a boon to the agriculturists, who, as usual, were excessively clamorous about the competition of the foreign wool growers. The supporters of the tax contended that it was quite visionary to suppose that our superiority in this manufacture could be at all affected by so small a tax; and they further contended that the proposed duty was no more than a fair compensation to the agriculturists for the loss they sustained by the restriction on the exportation of British wool. These reasons appeared satisfactory to a large majority in both Houses of Parliament. The duty was in consequence imposed; and the official accounts we shall immediately lay before our readers show, that the foreign woollen trade has since gradually and progressively declined.

"It was easy, indeed, to foresee this decline from the beginning. We are very far from possessing the same decided ascendancy in the woollen manufacture as we possess in the cotton and hardware manufactures. It is an undoubted fact that the French and Saxons can manufacture fine cloths of a superior quality to any that are manufactured in this country. Nor is it in the finer descriptions only that we have to fear their competition. They are gaining fast upon us in those of an inferior quality. Mr. Jacob, who will not be suspected of any improper bias in favour of the manufacturing states, in his travels in Germany, Prussia, &c., says, that the German and Prussian woollen manufacture is in a state of great and rapid improvement; and it is proved by the evidence of Mr. Bainbridge before a committee of the House of Commons, (1821,) that the continental woollen goods had begun, previously to the period when the tax was imposed, to enter into a successful competition with those of this country in the markets of North America.

“Neither is it true, as was contended in the House of Commons, that the burden imposed by this tax is only of trifling amount. On the contrary, it is most oppressive. The average annual importation of foreign wool for the ten years previous to 1819, amounted to about eleven millions of pounds, more than a third of which was sold at and under 2s. 6d. per lb., and the remainder at about 5s. per lb. It is clear, therefore, that the duty of sixpence per pound has made an addition of no less than twenty per cent. to the price paid by the English manufacturer for all his coarse wool imported from abroad, and of 10 per cent. to the price of the finer parcels. Now, considering the extent to which foreign competition had already been carried, and considering also that the foreign manufacturers are totally exempted from this burden, it must have been evident, on the slightest reflection, that the effect of the tax could not be otherwise than injurious, and that, if it did not drive the English manufacturer immediately out of the market, it would most certainly reduce his profits, and diminish the existing inducements to extend his business. And such has really been the case. For while the export of those species of goods made exclusively of long or English wools, and which are not affected by the tax, has rather increased since 1819, the export of those made wholly, or partly of short wool, and which is used to a great extent, has greatly declined. The subjoining official documents will render this obvious.

“Account of the Declared Value of the Woollen Goods, wholly manufactured from Short Wool, exported in the years ending 1816 to 1822 inclusive :—

Before the tax.		With the tax.	
1816	£7,388,479	1820	£4,361,334
1817	5,872,191	1821	3,742,059
1818	5,498,250	1822	4,432,692
1819	5,829,573		

“Account of the Declared Value of the Woollen Goods, partly manufactured from Long and partly from Short Wool, exported in the same period :—

1816	£664,543	1820	£391,976
1817	462,724	1821	328,180
1818	506,062	1822	388,843
1819	614,532		

“ Account of the Declared Value of Worsted Goods, wholly manufactured from Long or English Wool not affected by the tax, exported :—

1816	£2,167,944	1820	£2,146,381
1817	2,069,612	1821	2,208,925
1818	1,954,615	1822	2,480,521
1819	2,603,854		

“ Account of the total Declared Value of all sorts of Woollen goods exported in

1816	£10,200,926	1820	£6,899,693
1817	8,404,527	1821	6,279,164
1818	7,958,927	1822	7,395,185
1819	9,047,959		

“ These statements furnish an unanswerable demonstration of the impolicy and ruinous effects of this tax. They show that our foreign woollen trade had begun to decline previously to the imposition of the tax; that this decline has since been greatly accelerated, and that it has almost wholly taken place in those descriptions of goods which are affected by the tax. Neither must it be forgotten, in estimating the effects of this tax, that the demand for British woollen goods has been of late vastly extended, both in the East Indies and China; and that, but for the opening of these new markets, to which foreigners have not hitherto had access, the injury inflicted on our woollen trade by the tax would have been much more striking and obvious. But, independently altogether of this circumstance, we doubt whether any such clear and decisive evidence, to prove the injurious nature of the tax, as is contained in the previous statements, has ever been laid before the public. It can no longer be questioned, that our woollen manufacture,—a branch of industry which feeds and clothes above 1,100,000 individuals, has been seriously injured, and that this injury has been mainly occasioned by the imposition of a duty on the raw material, which has never produced £300,000 a year! We have too much respect for Messrs. Robinson and Huskisson to suppose it possible that they will allow the foreign woollen trade of the country to be paralyzed, and eventually destroyed, for the sake of this miserable pittance. To maintain this tax will not be to sacrifice the goose for the sake of the golden eggs, but for the sake of the offal she has picked up.

“ It is almost unnecessary to notice the arguments,—if we may so abuse the word,—urged by the agriculturists in defence of this tax. These gentlemen seem to consider themselves as possessing an undoubted right to stuff their own pockets at the expense of their neighbours. This, however, is not quite so easy a matter as they suppose. It is to no purpose that they make laws, to force up the price of corn and wool, unless they can at the same time secure an ample supply of customers to take them off at the high prices. But this is what they neither have done nor can do. So far, indeed, from the wool tax having been an advantage to them, its effects have been distinctly and completely the reverse. By paralyzing the energies of the manufacturer, and narrowing the foreign demand for his produce, it has really operated to lessen the demand for British wool, and to sink, not to raise, its price.

“ That the restriction on the exportation of British wool to other countries ought to be abolished, cannot, we think, admit of a moment's doubt. It was enacted in a comparatively barbarous age, and before the true principles of commercial intercourse were well understood. Every restriction, whether on exportation or importation, has a tendency to force the capital and industry of the country into employments where it is necessarily less productive of advantage than it would be were it left to the sagacity of individuals to find out those that are naturally most beneficial. It would, moreover, be easy to show, that in point of fact the manufacturers reap no real advantage from this restriction. But this is unnecessary, for we have the satisfaction to be able to state, that the manufacturers of Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, and Somersetshire, and of London, Huddersfield, Saddleworth, and other places, have addressed communications to His Majesty's Ministers, expressive of their readiness to consent to the repeal of this restriction on the free exportation of British wool. The manufacturers of Saddleworth state in their resolutions, that ‘the exportation of British wool will have no injurious effect on the manufacturing interests of their district; they therefore hail with the greatest pleasure, the extension of the freedom of commercial enterprise, and hope the time is approaching when competition will be invited, and duties on raw materials remembered only as errors which have ceased to exist.’ These resolutions reflect the greatest credit on the liberality, sound

sense, and enlarged views of those from whom they emanated, and we trust that the example of so many of those engaged in the same trade, will induce the manufacturers of Leeds and Norwich to wave their opposition to this measure, to consent to the relinquishment of what is really of no value, and thus take away the only ground on which it is possible to frame any excuse for a tax so extremely ruinous, not only to the woollen manufacturer, but to the public in general."

CHAPTER II.

FROM 1822 TO 1824.

Warehousing Act proposed by Mr. Wallace—Circular to Manufacturing Towns—Cloth and Stuffs exported—Petition to Parliament for Repeal of Wool Tax—Meeting of the Wool Trade in London—Meeting at Lord Liverpool's—Renewed Proposal for Free Trade in Wool—Proceedings in the Clothing Districts—Meeting of Parliament, 1824—Free Trade in Wool proposed by Government—Mr. Robinson's (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) Speech thereon—Mr. Banks's Correspondence with Lord Milton, Lord Harewood, and Mr. Wortley—Meeting of Wool Trades in London—Resolution on return of Duty on Wool in original Bags—Repeal of Duty proposed—Division thereon—Exportation of British Wool proposed—Amendment by Mr. Wortley—Division thereon—Bill passed.

AT the close of the session of Parliament in 1821, Mr. Wallace, the Vice-President of the Board of Trade, (Mr. Robinson, the present Earl of Ripon, being President,) gave notice that early in the ensuing session he would bring forward his Warehousing Bill. The Committee of the Woollen Trade in London, in consequence, thought it to be their duty to apprise the manufacturers of it, and the subjoined circular was sent to all the manufacturing towns, together with the following letter, signed by Mr. Maitland :—

“ Sir,

“ London, 16th February, 1822.

“ The Committee of the woollen trade here have not thought it expedient to prepare a petition to Parliament for the repeal of the wool tax, and I do not believe any petitions are intended to be sent from Yorkshire. I am, however, of opinion, that whilst the landed interest are making such strenuous exertions to get rid of taxes which they conceive press peculiarly upon themselves, it is expedient that the woollen trade should do all in their power to obtain the repeal of the wool tax, which was imposed to gratify a few leading men in the landed interest, in order to get their support on the malt tax ; and if the malt tax should be repealed, the wool tax ought to be repealed with it. I conceive, however, that any representation to Parliament would not now be of any use : the present, but, I fear, temporary prosperity of the woollen trade,

would be used in argument, as proof that the tax has not been injurious; and though petitions may be proper, as showing that the manufacturers still consider themselves injured, they would not, I fear, be properly attended to in Parliament.

"I think it right, however, to inform you that a measure will be introduced into the House of Commons, which I think will materially affect the foreign woollen trade of this country.

"At the close of the last session of Parliament a bill was brought in, and will be now discussed, one object of which is to allow the importation of goods into this country, free of duty, for exportation to all parts of the world, subject only to the regulations necessary for the protection of the revenue, and for securing to our manufacturers a preference in the markets of this country,—thus bringing the English manufacturer, with the disadvantages of high wages and taxes, to compete with foreigners in the same place. I, however, considering it to be fraught with consequences of the most serious moment to the manufacturers of this country, leave it to them to take such measures as may be deemed most expedient.

"The Committee here will be at all times ready to co-operate with you, and to give all the assistance in their power for this great object.

"I remain, &c. &c.

(Signed)

"JOHN MAITLAND, Chairman."

(CIRCULAR.)

"Towards the close of the last session of Parliament, two bills were brought into the House of Commons by the Right Honourable Thomas Wallace, Vice-President of the Board of Trade, the objects of which were to remove restrictions on the commerce of the country, and to make London, with some of the out-ports, general emporiums for the trade of the world, into which foreign goods of every description may be imported, warehoused, and re-exported, *free from duty*.

"The Right Honourable Gentleman, in submitting his plan to the House, said, '*I shall fearlessly propose to extend the warehousing system to its utmost practicable limits, and by opening our ports as wide as possible, and giving every facility and encouragement that can be afforded to it, to invite the deposit of foreign commodities, of every description, for exportation to every part of the world, subject only to the regulations necessary for the preservation of the revenue, and for preserving to our manufacturers a preference in the markets of this country, and the supply of the colonies*,' and moved that the bill should be printed, in order that the measure might be maturely considered.

"The Right Honourable Gentleman then stated the benefits which Leipzig, Francfort, and some other towns and cities in Germany, Holland, Italy, and other parts of the world, have derived from the warehousing system, as proofs that this country may be benefited by adopting the same measure. What is stated about emporiums may be true with respect to those particular places, but it does not necessarily follow that the same benefits and advantages would be obtained in this country by their introduction here. In some of those places, fairs are periodically held, for the purchase and sale of foreign and domestic produce, as well as all kinds of merchandise: others, by their local advantages, enjoy by internal navigation, a free and easy communication, and extensive trade with surrounding states. But though the system may have succeeded in some cities and small districts which are altogether dependant upon that mode of trade for their prosperity, it by no means follows that it would be commercially beneficial, or politically wise, to introduce such a system into this country, or that it is adapted to large states, whose prosperity depends more upon agriculture and manufactures than upon commerce. No country is mentioned by Mr. Wallace in which this system has been established, where *manufactures constitute a chief source of its independence and power.*

"The measure proposed by Mr. Wallace is diametrically opposed to the policy which has always been pursued in this country, by every statesman who has held the reins of government; they have all uniformly protected and encouraged the *British manufactures*, as the mainspring and foundation of *British commerce*—the best means of securing beneficial employment for an increasing population, who consume and pay for the produce of the soil, and of preserving an honourable and advantageous interchange of our manufactured articles with foreigners, for their raw materials and articles of consumption. The direct tendency of the present measure is to make our commerce in a great measure dependant upon foreign manufactures.

"The proposed regulations, as they are likely to affect the woollen trade, may be viewed under two considerations.

"First the effect which will ensue from the repeal of certain laws specified in the bill; and second, the dangers which the staple trade of Great Britain may suffer, by permitting such a competition as must arise from the deposit of foreign woollens within our shores, for sale to foreign merchants, and for the supply of foreign markets, free from duty,—the bill being intended to preserve to our manufacturers preference at home and the supply of our colonies only: so that by means of such free ports being established

in Great Britain, equal facilities will be gratuitously afforded to foreign merchants, in obtaining in this country goods of every description in the known world, nearly as cheap as they are to be purchased at in the countries where they are manufactured or produced.

"The manufacturers of France, Holland, and Prussia, can convey their merchandise to London at the same, if not less expense, than the British manufacturer can send his goods from the clothing districts to the metropolis, and both, when there, would be subject to the same charges of commission, warehouse rent, &c. &c. But it must not be forgotten that the British manufacturer has to contribute his share to the general taxes and parochial assessments, which raise the price of labour greatly above what it is on the continent: he must likewise be subject to the effect which our corn laws produce on the price of bread, which prevent him from obtaining the staff of life at so low a rate as his foreign rival; and besides this, he must pay direct taxes on foreign wool, oil, dyeing wares, and the other materials which he makes use of. Machinery, the exclusive employment of which gave such advantages to Great Britain, is now, in its improved state, in possession of foreigners; and it is with the greatest difficulty that the manufacturers of this country can maintain a competition with their foreign rivals in an open market: they have lost many of the European markets which were formerly supplied from hence.

"The British manufacturers, thus deprived of what they so long considered great and regular channels for the disposal of their goods, have been compelled to seek markets, and form establishments in North and South America, in India, and the most distant parts of the globe; and these new sources of consumption have enabled them hitherto to give employment to an immense population, and thereby to live upon their native soil, and pay for its products, thus contributing to the exigencies of the state, and, when necessity requires, to afford their personal services in war. The proposed warehousing system will open to foreign rivals all those markets which British enterprise has discovered; and, when British adventurers have taught the use of our woollen manufactures, and given such facilities to foreigners, who are comparatively exempt from taxation, we may expect they will gradually undermine this important branch of commerce, and at no distant period supply those countries direct.

"It seems, therefore, expedient that the woollen manufacturers of Great Britain should very seriously consider how this proposition will affect them, and adopt such measures as shall appear to them most expedient."

The advantages and disadvantages of the warehousing act were discussed in the public newspapers: it was opposed by petition to Parliament from the manufacturing districts; and their representatives in Parliament, as well as their petitions, admitting the beneficial effects likely to result from free trade, claimed their right to exemption from taxation in case they were to be met in the English ports with foreign manufacturers untaxed. Other trades followed the example of the woollen manufacturers, particularly the clock and watch makers of the metropolis. The following table was also sent:—

“ A STATEMENT, copied from Parliamentary Returns, of the QUANTITIES of CLOTHS and STUFFS exported to Foreign Countries since the Tax of Sixpence per lb. was imposed on Foreign Wool; showing— That wherever Foreign Manufacturers have had easy access, the Exportation of Cloth from Great Britain has DECREASED, whilst the Exportation of Stuffs, which are not affected by the Tax, have, during the same Period of Time, and to the same Countries, INCREASED; also showing—That the Exportation of BOTH DESCRIPTIONS of Goods has INCREASED ALIKE to distant Markets difficult of access to Foreign Manufacturers. The Exportation to Russia is not inserted, because the Trade in Cloth must cease, in consequence of the heavy Duties imposed there.

Cloths Exported.			Exported to.	Stuffs Exported.		
1820.	1821.	1822.		1820.	1821.	1822.
Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Easy of access.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.
760	—	1	Sweden.	9	20	1
849	690	670	Norway.	1683	979	773
158	96	37	Denmark.	867	1441	1630
90	20	11	Prussia.	2043	6144	6031
6129	5046	4197	Germany.	123417	205764	206696
6717	5087	2276	Holland.	26483	25053	21593
1890	1146	1071	Flanders.	8270	11031	13507
20	16	53	France.	7	—	30
41671	42021	38772	Portugal.	17398	21924	26050
2346	2894	960	Spain.	16596	16230	2927
28282	23108	17792	Italy.	33212	31174	56173
570	233	134	Levant.	2324	3629	755
89482	80357	65974	Total.	232309	323369	336166
			Difficult of access.			
27252	42616	60141	E. Inds. & China	172118	211593	204682
122051	74625	145600	U. S. of Amer.	180515	147315	302944
1981	4385	3276	For West Indies.	3994	2680	2799
29671	27987	24793	Brazils.	16777	19909	21380
6978	9060	15168	South America.	7229	8941	24383
187933	158673	248978	Total.	380633	390438	556193

The Warehousing Bill went through the different stages with considerable opposition, till it reached the third reading, when Mr. Wallace gave notice that he should postpone it till the next session of Parliament, when he pledged himself to bring it forward again.

The wool tax was not altogether neglected. Petitions for its repeal, from the manufacturing districts of Yorkshire and the West of England, were presented to Parliament, and

Mr. STUART WORTLEY, on presenting a petition from the merchants and manufacturers of Leeds and its neighbourhood, urged the necessity of the repeal, contending that so long as the present tax was allowed to continue, the British manufacturer could not have the slightest chance of successful competition in a foreign market. It was impossible that cloth could be made to meet foreign manufactures without an admixture of such wool as was not to be found in this country, and, in his opinion, the more foreign wool was made use of, the more British wool would be worked. There could not be a worse measure for raising money than a tax like the present. The petitioners felt persuaded that the tax was extremely prejudicial to the landed interest, and even on that account they were anxious to get rid of it. He must also be allowed to observe, that they were very much alarmed lest they should be injured by the operation of a bill which allowed foreign cloths to be warehoused in this country under certain regulations. It remained for the house to consider, whether, for the sake of a comparatively small amount of revenue, so obnoxious a measure was to be kept up.—Mr. Wortley was supported by Mr. Coke, of Norfolk; Mr. Curwen, Cumberland; Mr. Wilson, London; and opposed by Sir Walter Burrell, Sussex; and Mr. Benett, Wiltshire; but it was not thought expedient to move for the repeal of the tax this year.

Upon the meeting of Parliament in February this year, Mr. Wallace again brought forward his Warehousing Bill.

A meeting of the merchants, factors, and others of London, trading in wool and woollens, was held on the 9th of April, 1823, John Maitland, Esq. in the chair, which came to the following resolution :—

“ That petitions be presented to the Houses of Parliament,

setting forth the hardship and injustice the manufacturers of this country will suffer if foreign woollens be allowed to be imported for sale to foreign markets duty free, so long as a tax is continued on the importation of foreign wool, and praying for the repeal of the tax.

“ That the petition now read be adopted, viz.—

“ That a bill is now under consideration and in progress through your Honourable House, which, if passed into a law, will allow the importation of foreign manufactures into this country, to be warehoused and re-exported duty free.

“ That the importation of foreign woollen goods in transit, or destined for sale to foreign countries, free from duty, will gratuitously give to foreign manufacturers all the advantages which the manufacturers of this country enjoy, from their insular situation, from the facility of communication by means of our mercantile navy, and from the enterprise of our manufacturers and merchants, who have formed connections in every part of the globe, and thereby open the distant markets of Asia, Africa, and America, to which foreign manufacturers have difficult access.

“ That your petitioners have no fear of foreign competition, if placed upon a fair and equitable footing ; but it would be most unjust to oblige the British manufacturer to pay a tax of sixpence per pound on the importation of wool, whilst his foreign rival will be allowed to import the same article in its manufactured state free from all duty.

“ Your petitioners, therefore, humbly but earnestly pray your Honourable House, as an act of common justice to them, and consistent with the principles which are about to be adopted with respect to foreign manufactures, to repeal the tax imposed on foreign wool, and thereby enable the merchants and manufacturers of Great Britain to continue the foreign trade in woollens, and give employment and support to an immense population dependant upon the wool and woollen trades.

“ And your petitioners also pray that your Honourable House will be pleased to appoint a committee of your Honourable House to receive and examine evidence touching the subject of this petition.”

The petitions were in consequence presented to both Houses of Parliament ; but notwithstanding silk manufactures were excluded from the operation of the bill, in consequence of the heavy duties paid on the importation of raw and thrown silk, and the linen manufactures were exempt from its ope-

ration in consequence of the superiority of German and other foreign linens as compared with those of Great Britain and Ireland, the motion of Mr. Stuart Wortley, that woollen manufactures should be also exempt, was negatived by a large majority, and the Warehousing Bill was carried through Parliament with the utmost rapidity.

When that measure had become the law, the committee of the woollen trade in London requested another interview with the Earl of Liverpool, which took place on the 28th of May. Lord Liverpool had with him Mr. Robinson, (just appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer,) and Mr. Huskisson, President of the Board of Trade.

The committee of the woollen trade had to support them, the Earl of Harewood, Lord Milton, Mr. Wortley, Members for Yorkshire; Mr. Wilson, for London; Mr. Dickenson, for Somerset; and Mr. Pearse, for Devizes.

After that meeting, the following circular was sent to the manufacturing districts, containing a report of the proceedings :—

“ We, the undersigned, having had an interview with the Earl of Liverpool, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the President of the Board of Trade, and being accompanied by the Earl of Harewood, Lord Milton, Mr. Stuart Wortley, Mr. Dickenson, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Pearse, report—

“ That, after a long discussion, and after producing patterns and evidence showing the injurious effects which the wool tax has already produced on the exportation of woollens to the continent of Europe, and the probable effects which will ensue by the free transit of woollens under the warehousing system to distant markets, so long as that tax is continued,—

“ The Earl of Liverpool stated that His Majesty’s Ministers have no objections to free trade in wool, and will consent to the repeal of the wool tax, provided English wool may be allowed to be exported duty free.

“ That answers be requested to this proposal in order that they may be transmitted to His Majesty’s Government.

(Signed by)

JOHN MAITLAND, Chairman.

JAMES BISCHOFF.

THOMAS SHEPPARD.

EDWARD PHILLIP, Melksham.

JOHN SAUNDERS, Bradford, Wilts.

WILLIAM ALDAM, Leeds.

“ London, 23rd May, 1823.” ANTHONY AUSTIN, Gloucestershire.

In order to show the opinions which prevailed in the manufacturing districts, it appears best to insert copies of some of the letters and proceedings which took place in the different places.

TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WOOLLEN COMMITTEE, LONDON.

Letter from EDWARD SHEPPARD, Esq., Uley, Gloucestershire.

“The woollen manufacturers of the county of Gloucester, in answer to your communication made to them, of the proposal of His Majesty’s Ministers to consent to the repeal of the wool tax, provided English wool may be allowed to be exported duty free, confirm the sentiments they have already expressed through you to His Majesty’s government, on a similar proposal, in which they stated their assent to the free export of English wools, on condition that the wool tax be repealed, as they are perfectly satisfied, that the export trade in fine woollen cloths cannot be maintained in this country, without a repeal of the wool tax, or a drawback being allowed to the extent of that tax on cloths exported.

(Signed) “EDWARD SHEPPARD,

“Chairman to the woollen manufacturers of the county of Gloucester.”

“At a meeting of merchants, manufacturers, and others of the
“town and neighbourhood of Bradford, in Yorkshire, held 2nd
“June, 1823:—

“Resolved,

“That it is the unanimous opinion of this meeting, that a free export of British wool would be destructive to the trade of this town and neighbourhood.

“That the great increase of trade in this quarter is owing to the protection we enjoy, which protection was given by the wisdom of our ancestors, and, so long as we continue to enjoy it, will prevent us from having any rival in the market.

“That large manufacturing establishments have been erected in confidence of a continuation of this protection, and that therefore the removal of it will be a great act of injustice to those who have embarked large capital in them, whilst at the same time it will not benefit those for whom it was intended.

“That every fair and legal opposition be given to this measure, and that the members of this county be requested to apply for a committee of the House of Commons to investigate this subject, in case the proposal is persisted in.

“RICHARD FAWCETT, Chairman.”

“ At a meeting of merchants, manufacturers, and others interested
“ in the wool trade, holden at Huddersfield, June 2nd, 1823 :—

“ Resolved,

“ That it is the opinion of this meeting, that the prosperity, and almost the existence of the foreign trade in woollens, to any other countries than our own colonies, depends upon the repeal of the tax on the importation of foreign wool, and that the proposal of a free trade in wool be acceded to.

“ JOSEPH HAIGH, Chairman.”

“ We, the undersigned woolstaplers and manufacturers of the town of Leicester, having been favoured with a copy of the reply made by the Earl of Liverpool to the deputation of gentlemen from the wool committee in London, beg leave to express our opinion most decidedly against so dangerous a measure, conceiving it fraught with the most ruinous consequences to the trade of this county in particular, which requires the *long English wools* almost exclusively.

“ We beg leave further to observe, that goods of every description made from long wool foreigners are now obliged to purchase in this country ; whereas, if English long wool is permitted to be exported, the trade in goods so manufactured will soon be annihilated.

“ Probably His Majesty’s Ministers are not aware of the fact, that foreigners, by obtaining our long wool, can manufacture a great portion of their own into goods which they cannot make without it, and will thereby deprive this country of the profit of labour returned upon the manufactured goods exported, in which long wools are used, as the following statement will show : for example, if a pack of our long wool be exported in its raw state, it will enable the foreigners to mix up two packs of their own with it ; if this pack of wool be worth £12, that amount only is returned to this country ; but if this same pack be sent out in a manufactured state, it will be worth £60 or £80, or upwards. Taking the average to be £70, the loss would be £58 : and admitting that foreigners are thereby enabled to work up two packs of their own, a loss of £174 would be sustained by this country for every pack of wool so exported, and these very goods would, under the warehousing system, be brought into this country for sale free of duty by our foreign competitors.

“ This, consequently, would throw out of employment a very great proportion of the manufacturers and artizans of Great Britain, who inevitably must fall a fearful burden upon the landed interest, which we are led to expect is not contemplated.

“ We beg leave to add, that we already labour under great disadvantages in our manufactures, by the heavy duties imposed upon almost every article of foreign growth used therein, which we conceive foreigners are not subject to; therefore, we hope the legislature will take into consideration the great disparity already existing between the foreign and home manufacturer, and not increase it by permitting the exportation of long wool, almost exclusively given to us by nature.”

(Signed very numerously.)

“ At a meeting of merchants, manufacturers, and others interested in the woollen manufactures of the town and neighbourhood, held at Leeds, June 7th, 1823 :—

“ Resolved unanimously,

“ That it is the opinion of this meeting that the prosperity, and almost the existence of our foreign trade in woollen cloth, to any other countries than our own colonies, depends upon the repeal of the tax on the importation of foreign wool.

“ That as manufacturers and exporters of woollen cloths, we are persuaded that the exportation of the wool of the growth of this country will be a smaller evil to us than that we are now suffering from the tax on import.

“ That in this painful alternative, we are reduced to the necessity of consenting to the export of our native wools, only as the less evil, although not without the deep-felt conviction that such export must be a serious injury to the worsted manufactures of this country, which, under the present system, have flourished, are increasing, and give employment to a very extensive population.

“ That whilst we anxiously hope that our case will be considered upon its own merits, and the wool tax be repealed, we are extremely solicitous that the manufacturers of worsted goods may have that protection from Government which their situation peculiarly demands.

(Signed)

“ BENJAMIN GOTT, Chairman.”

“ At a meeting of merchants, manufacturers, and others interested
“ in the long wool trade, held at Leeds, 11th June, 1823 ;—

“ It was resolved,

“ 1. That the proposition of His Majesty’s Ministers to take off the duty on wool imported, on the condition of free exportation of English wool, appears to this meeting a measure fraught with the most serious and ruinous consequences to a very numerous population in this town and neighbourhood.

"2. That while the proposed exportation of long wool will be very destructive to the worsted trade of this town and its vicinity, it is a measure not even asked for by the growers of this description of wool, as it has for a long period obtained better prices than any other kind of agricultural produce.

"3. That long wool being peculiarly the growth of this country, and no wool possessing the same quality and properties being grown in any other, its free exportation will give to other nations the means of manufacturing, which before were exclusively confined to this country.

"4. That the low rate of labour on the European continent, particularly in France, Flanders, and Germany, added to their comparative low prices of oil and dye-wares, in the event of their receiving our wool, will give them advantages which we do not possess, and deprive this country of those it now enjoys, by furnishing our rivals with the whole of their consumption of manufactured and finished stuff goods, instead of the raw material.

"5. That the combing and spinning of long wool, and its manufacture into various descriptions of goods, has been for the last twenty-five years a rapidly increasing trade, employing an immense population of the West Riding, a large portion of whom, if the present laws are repealed, will undoubtedly become destitute of the means of obtaining bread, as well as unsettle capital to an enormous extent, which has been invested on the strength of the existing laws.

"6. That instead of raising the price of long wool, its exportation will have a tendency ultimately to lower the price, thereby injuring the agricultural interest. It is an ascertained fact, grounded on the result of experiments made at three different periods of our history, that when long wool was allowed to leave the country, the price uniformly fell.

"7. That for these reasons, and for many others which can be adduced, this meeting deems a free trade in English wools highly dangerous, but most particularly ruinous to the long wool trade, which, in point of fact, differs as much from the clothing wool trade as wool from flax.

"8. That a committee be now named, to watch the progress of any measures which may be brought forward in Parliament affecting the long wool trade.

"9. That the Chairman be desired to send a copy of these resolutions to the Earl of Harewood, and to each of the county members, requesting they will use their utmost influence in furthering the objects of this meeting.

(Signed)

"GEORGE BANKS, Chairman."

It is unnecessary to give more letters upon this subject. At a meeting of the London Committee, held 11th June, 1823, the answers received from the manufacturing districts were read, and the following was the result:—In favour of the proposal of Ministers, 7,—viz., London, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Somersetshire, Huddersfield, Saddleworth, Leeds clothing trade. Against the proposal of Ministers, 4,—viz., Bradford, (Yorkshire) Norwich, Leicester, Leeds worsted trade.

“Resolved,—That the original letters be transmitted to the Earl of Liverpool, and copies be sent to the Earl of Harwood, Lord Milton, Mr. Stuart Wortley, Mr. Pearse, Mr. Dickenson, and Mr. Wilson.

“That a communication be made at the same time to Lord Liverpool, stating that as the manufacturers have generally acquiesced in his Lordship’s proposal, Mr. Wilson, or some other member of the House of Commons, will be requested to bring forward the subject of repeal forthwith, (the duties to cease on the 5th April next) unless His Majesty’s Ministers should prefer introducing the measure themselves.

“That Mr. Maitland and Mr. Bischoff be desired to wait upon Mr. Wilson, and request him to move for the repeal.”

It being considered too late in the present session of Parliament to carry a bill for the repeal of the tax, and it having been intimated that Ministers would themselves bring it forward early in the next session, all proceedings were postponed till that time.

Parliament met early in February, 1824, and Mr. Wilson presented a petition for the repeal of the tax on foreign wool, from the merchants and others of London, engaged in the wool and woollen trades.

Mr. Stuart Wortley presented a petition from the merchants and manufacturers of Leeds, which entered fully into the subject, and of which the following is a copy:—

“To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled;

“The humble petition of the merchants, manufacturers, and others interested in the woollen manufactures of the town and neighbourhood of Leeds, in the county of York;

“ SHEWETH,

“ That your petitioners are engaged in the different branches of the woollen manufacture, which has hitherto afforded employment to a great proportion of the population of this district.

“ That, in full confidence of the continued protection of the Legislature, your petitioners have invested large sums of money in the erection of mills and other buildings, and of machinery for carrying on the various processes of the manufacture.

“ That, when these works were in full operation, your petitioners, many of whom are exclusively engaged in the manufacture of foreign wool, were most unexpectedly charged, first with a duty of one penny, and then with a duty of fivepence per lb., making together a duty of sixpence per pound weight on foreign wool imported, in addition to the expenses attending the same in land carriage, freight, and insurance, which amount to about twopence per lb., and to the imposts levied in Spain and Germany when their wool is sent abroad.

“ That the heavy duty on foreign wool, which was from 10 to 15 per cent. on the value when sixpence per lb. was first imposed, now amounts to from 20 to 30 per cent. on its value from the fall in the price of wool, and affords this increased advantage or bounty to the foreign manufacturer.

“ That the coarse wools of the continent, which, in consequence of this high duty, cannot now be imported, are worked up by the foreign manufacturers of Prussia, Germany, Flanders, and other European states.

“ That, besides this heavy duty on wool, your petitioners have to contend with high duties,—from which foreigners are exempt,—on olive oil, foreign rapeseed, indigo, dye drugs, and dyewoods, which your petitioners humbly urge as an additional reason for the repeal of the tax upon foreign wool.

“ That, after the British manufacturer had been charged with this high duty on foreign wool, olive oil, dye wares, &c., and prevented by the same duty from buying the low foreign wool at all, which the foreigner is now almost compelled to manufacture, your petitioners had to encounter new and perhaps unprecedented difficulties in trade ; not only a competition with the foreign manufacturers in the markets of Europe, the Americas, and Asia (the access to which our shipping, capital, and enterprise afforded us facilities which foreigners did not possess), but, after taxing British manufactured cloths with duties amounting to from one shilling and sixpence to two shillings or more per yard, foreigners were, by the warehousing act of last session, invited to enter into competition with us in the ports of Great Britain, and the British mer-

chant was thus encouraged to introduce the cloths of foreigners, free from any tax or duty whatever, and without having contributed to the employment of the poor, or to pay the taxes of the country; so that, while the wool is all but prohibited, the cloth is freely admitted,—a principle and a practice which your petitioners conceive are equally ruinous to the agriculturists and manufacturers of Great Britain.

“Your petitioners, therefore, humbly pray your Honourable House to take their case into your serious consideration, and repeal the tax upon foreign wool imported, and grant to your petitioners such further relief as to your Honourable House shall seem meet, &c. &c.”

On the 23rd of February, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Mr. Robinson, now, 1839, the Earl of Ripon,) moved that the House resolve itself into a committee on the finances of the country, and the following is extracted from his speech :—

After alluding generally to the propriety and advantages of adopting measures of free and liberal policy in mercantile relations, he said—

“There were various branches of our trade which it had been thought necessary to encumber with high duties in respect to importation, and again, in the opposite direction, to encumber the relative articles of exportation with corresponding restrictions and prohibitions. Among these articles, the first that presented itself, in point of importance, was the trade in wool. As the law now stood, with respect to revenue, the duty on foreign wool, which was but of recent establishment, was sixpence per lb., having been originally one penny. The increased duty was imposed in 1819, not, as has been erroneously asserted by part of those interested, though their construction had been repeatedly disowned by himself and other officers of the Government, as a duty to effect prohibition, but for the benefit of the revenue only. Those who were interested were always told, ‘You have no right to object to this duty, so long as you require the produce of British wool to be confined to the consumption of the country;’ while, on the other hand, Ministers had always told the British farmers and growers—‘We are content to remove those most impolitic restrictions on British wool, if you are ready

to consent to the repeal of the restrictions on foreign wool.' These propositions led to very many discussions in different parts of the country; meetings were held, and the reasons were weighed by the chief growers and manufacturers; various resolutions were come to, and the result was a very considerable difference of opinion. Some held that the removal of the duty on foreign wool would produce less benefit than was produced of evil by the existing restrictions, and many were anxious that matters should rest just as they were. Some were of opinion that an alteration would effect no benefit at all; but a decided majority were of opinion that it would be beneficial to accede to a compromise, to consent to a reduction of the duty with the permission of a free exportation. He owned that he could not see one reasonable objection which could be urged by any party to that modification. He proposed, therefore, to reduce the present duty of sixpence on foreign wool to one penny, as it stood before, and to allow the free exportation of British wool at one penny also: and thus they would be enabled to sweep away endless statutes and restrictions, now kept up with oaths and ceremonies, and Heaven knows what; none of which did any good, but had only aided in preventing the object which they were about to attain, viz., that of putting the wool trade on the best possible footing, both for the manufacturer and the grower. The apprehensions which were entertained had no reasons to support them. Why should they persist in tying commerce down to the earth? He believed that instead of loss the alteration would lead to a greater extent of consumption in the articles of the woollen trade, which would then be borne to every part of the world; and he could anticipate nothing but the most happy and prosperous results from such an enlarged supply being required from the industry of the British people. He could see nothing, he repeated it, in the consequences, but absolute good, and he hoped for the support of the House to his proposition. The loss upon this to the revenue he estimated at £350,000."

Public meetings of those interested in the wool and woollen trades in London were held, chiefly to ascertain the best period for reducing the duty on wool, and at which votes of

thanks were unanimously carried to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and to Ministers for this measure.

The following correspondence on the policy of permitting the free exportation of wool was published :—

CORRESPONDENCE.

between the Lord Lieutenant for the West-Riding, the Members for the County of York, and George Banks, Esq., on the policy of permitting the free exportation of wool.

MR. BANKS'S LETTER TO LORD MILTON,
(copies of which were sent to Lord Harewood, and J. A. Stuart Wortley, Esq.) :—

“ Leeds, 20th December, 1823.

“ My Lord,

“ I cannot help sincerely regretting, that it will not be in your lordship's power to afford an opportunity to those interested in the long wool trade, to state their object to you personally, either at Leeds or by waiting upon you ; we must, therefore, have recourse to correspondence, to bring that object, in the best manner we are able, before your lordship's consideration.

“ You are aware of the extraordinary proposal made by Mr. Huskisson to the woollen trade, which, whatever might be the intention with which it was made, has had the effect of separating the woollen and worsted interests. All parties agree in reprobating the unstatesmanlike feeling which could originate such a proposal ; its effects are, however, not less to be apprehended. There is among the clothiers, and more particularly in the West of England, a party so desperately bent on endeavouring to get rid of the wool tax, that they care little for the means ; and as one of the King's Ministers has pointed out to them the exportation of British wool (a subject in which they have no interest) as the price of the repeal, they have eagerly grasped at it. It therefore becomes necessary, not only for the protection of very extensive private interests, but for the discharge of what we conscientiously believe to be our duty to our country, to prevent so rash an experiment.

“ Our case in itself is short, and all we ask for is a fair and candid examination. We say then, that long wool, such as is used in the manufacturing of worsted stuffs, is the exclusive growth of this country, and its growth is confined to certain districts only in this country, and that no goods such as are called worsted goods, are made in any other country in the world.

“ For the purpose of illustration, I have addressed a packet to to your lordship, in which you will find a lock of wool taken from a long wool fleece, and also part of what is called a sliver,

exhibiting the same wool combed, which is the preparation after being worked for spinning. You will also find patterns of various articles manufactured from the yarn (a hank of which is also inclosed) obtained, and only to be obtained, from this wool. No other raw material can be named which is under such circumstances.

"We would now ask, what motive can exist to induce Government to part with that in a raw state, which is taken in a manufactured state, with three or four times its original value added to it of British labour, and to the full extent that any country requires it, *for this very reason that they can get it no where else*: the export demand for worsted goods has increased during the last six years fifty per cent., or one million per annum.

"Many foreigners have established themselves in Leeds and other places, from whence they can conveniently attend the stuff markets for the purpose of taking the export trade out of the hands of the English merchant. This is injurious to him, but to him only: every other class benefits, from the grower of the fleece, to the exporter of the finished stuff.

"The foreigner would fain have the wool: as he cannot have the wool, he would take the yarn: as he can have neither, he has lately had a quantity of *unfinished* stuffs sent over, so desirous is he to obtain the article, giving England the least possible advantage.

"Suppose for a moment that he might be allowed to have the free export of wool, what would be the consequence? Why, in the first instance, until he got suitable machinery, he would take the yarn, and so soon as he was prepared to spin the wool, he would then take only such part of the long fleece (that is the combing part) as suited him, and leave the remainder to be disposed of as might happen, for this country produces no other kind of wool that any foreign nation wants.

"There is some long wool grown in Friesland, which, with the addition of one-third of English, may be manufactured into good stuffs, but it is useless for that purpose without English wool. As soon as the thing got fairly into operation, we should find that the low price of Friesland wool would secure it a market, while only one part of English wool, in the raw state, would be wanted where we now send three, with three or four times their first cost added to them, of the labour of those who consume the carcase of the sheep, as well as the corn of the farmer. Does the long wool grower complain of the price of long wool? No: there is no article which has paid the producer so well, or has been so steady in price, during the last twenty or thirty years, or has been so con-

stant a resource for ready money to the farmer, at all times during that period : it is needless to urge to you the great advantage of steady prices to all parties concerned.

“ Neither must we overlook the immense capital engaged in it, or the vast population which has been raised and supported by the spirit with which the manufacture of long wool has been carried on, and which has languished at no period of the last eventful thirty years.

“ There is in fact no complaint from any persons concerned in either the growth or the manufacture of long wool.

“ The complaints are from men who sought to gather figs from thistles ; who, having introduced exotic breeds of sheep, (which for a long time operated to the serious detriment of native stock), are now disappointed that this climate will not, under any, even artificial aid, yield them the same fibre they imported on the parent sheep, a constant deterioration having followed all their attempts to naturalize them.

“ This, my Lord, is the case we submit to you. Let it be tried by the principles of what is called political economy, or, what is better, let it go through the ordeal of common sense, and we do not fear for its fate. All we apprehend is, that a party ignorant of, and careless about the subject, may have the power, in spite of its claims, to sacrifice it.

“ If I have been so fortunate as to convince your lordship of the danger and impolicy of commencing with the free export of long wool, a series of experiments on free trade, it will, I assure your lordship, be a source of satisfaction to me as long as I live.

“ I have the honour to be,

“ My Lord,

“ Your Lordship’s obedient servant,

“ GEORGE BANKS.”

REPLY OF LORD HAREWOOD.

“ Harewood House, 7th Jan., 1824.

“ Sir,

“ The opinions I have hitherto entertained, both upon the subject of the duty imposed upon foreign wool imported, and upon the project of allowing the free export of British wool, remain unaltered. I have lived to see the woollen manufacture of this country struggle successfully through various difficulties of a commercial and political nature, and am therefore perhaps prejudiced, as it is termed, in favour of those laws and regulations, under which they have flourished and increased. I can, however, conceive that persons, fully impressed with the idea of the benefit to be derived

from a free trade with foreign countries, may be disposed to under-rate existing advantages, when compared with those expected to be experienced from the adoption of plausible theories. But I am quite at a loss to understand upon what principle it is that the advocates of free trade should commence their operations, by recommending and supporting a duty, for the first time, upon the importation of a raw material, and that of so much importance, both to the manufacturer and the agriculturist, as wool undoubtedly is. If, overlooking the principle of free trade, the object of the duty was to procure for the grower of fine wool in England an advanced price, the experiment has not succeeded, nor can the agriculturist ever, in my opinion, be substantially benefited by such a forced operation, in comparison with the advantages he would derive from a regular demand for his wool, an unrestrained access, on the part of the manufacturer, to the raw material, and the consequent flourishing state of the woollen trade, and of an enormous manufacturing population deriving their support from the produce of the soil.

"My opinions upon the wool question are, I believe, at variance with those of a large majority in both Houses of Parliament. They will not, I conceive, be disposed to relinquish the duty on foreign wool imported, unless upon the condition of the free export of British wool. If this be a correct view of the case, it becomes expedient to consider how the manufacturing interest would act under the circumstances,—the question being, whether to get rid of the duty at the risk of establishing the export of British wool? If I was called upon to decide which of the two evils I would submit to, I should decide in favour of retaining the duty, because, however objectionable such a duty may be in principle, the fact is, that the importation of foreign wool has greatly increased since the duty was imposed. The practical bad effects, therefore, of this duty, appear to me to attach principally to the lower qualities of foreign wool. If the manufacturing interest, instead of allowing itself to be divided by the questions of a total repeal of the duty, or the free export of British wool, would unite to endeavour to procure a repeal, or a reduction of the duty upon the lower qualities of foreign wool imported, and leave the other points at rest, perhaps the result would be more favourable and satisfactory than that which is likely to arise out of the other course of proceeding. In making this suggestion, however, I trust I shall not be considered as having, in any degree, varied my opinion as to the impolicy and inexpediency of the duty altogether; but, foreseeing the difficulties with which the manufacturers will have to contend, between the two questions of retaining the duty

or allowing the free exportation of British wool, I feel anxious to suggest whatever occurs to me calculated to avert the latter, and, I think, the greater evil.

“ I have the honour to be, &c. &c.,

“ HAREWOOD.”

“ To George Banks, Esq.”

REPLY OF J. A. STUART WORTLEY, ESQ.

“ Wortley Hall, Sheffield, Jan. 5, 1824.

“ My Dear Sir,

“ I have received your letter, inclosing a copy of one which you have written to Lord Milton. I am obliged by your giving me an opportunity of seeing it.

“ You will probably have heard that on Friday last I met the gentlemen who are pressing for the repeal of the wool tax, even at the price of the free export of wool. I was glad to have them together, in order that they might be fully aware, that although I will do my utmost to remove the tax, if not coupled with the other alternative, I shall go the length of even opposing the removal of the tax, if the free export is to be a condition of its removal. At all events, they now know what they have to expect from me upon that subject.

“ I am, &c.,

“ J. A. STUART WORTLEY.”

“ To George Banks, Esq., Leeds.”

REPLY FROM LORD MILTON.

“ Milton, Jan. 19, 1824.

“ Dear Sir,

“ As I am myself surprised at the length of time that has elapsed since you transmitted to me the patterns of the long wool manufacture, I cannot wonder at others feeling some surprise at my not having written ; the fact is, that I wished to have a few days to reflect on the subject, and view it in different lights, that I might not give a hasty answer, and the result has been, that I have suffered day to succeed day, till they have amounted, I fear, to weeks instead of days. I may perhaps acknowledge, and without shame, that I felt some apprehension of embarking in the discussion with one who is so fully master of the subject, who has exhausted all the most ingenious arguments, and has placed them in the most attractive light ; for I must be permitted to say, that when you submit to our inspection all the beautiful results of the industry and ingenuity of the manufacturers of long wool, you do not

disdain to solicit our tastes and our imaginations, as well as our reasoning faculties. When, however, I sit down calmly to consider whether a permission to export British long wool is likely to be attended with the destruction of, or even any material injury to the manufactures of that article, I must acknowledge that I cannot, by any process of reasoning, bring myself to this alarming conclusion. The very prosperity of the manufacture, which is adduced as an argument, (and a powerful one it is) to prove its importance, is of itself a preliminary objection to the conclusion which is apprehended; it is a proof how deeply seated are the roots of this manufacture, how intimately our country is adapted to it, and how powerful must be that agent by which it can be torn from us. What, then, is the agent whose power is so much dreaded? Why, the competition of the foreign manufacturer in the fairs of Lincolnshire. It is assumed that the manufacturer of Bradford, within a day's journey of the spot upon which the wool is raised, will be expelled from those fairs by the manufacturer of Abbeville or Verviers, who will have to transport his materials first by land and then by sea, and then again by land into the interior of France and Belgium. Now I am not surprised at apprehensions being entertained; it is in human nature to feel strongly where we are strongly interested; our hopes and our fears are excited in proportion to the degree in which we feel an interest in the subject of them; and therefore it is that we are apt to be led astray in our judgments upon such topics. I am sure that *you individually*, and I believe the great body of those whom you represent on this occasion, are too candid to take it ill of me, if I express my suspicions that this principle operates, though unknown to themselves, upon all the reasonings of the manufacturers on this question. Those, however, who are not within the influence of this principle, but view the question *from without*, if I may so say, cannot enter into these apprehensions; and perhaps there is no stronger proof of the correctness of these opinions, than the circumstance which you mention, of there being no complaint from the growers of long wool. If they complained, which they do not, of an inadequate price, and a slow demand, if they were eager for the measure, if they anticipated a brisk demand from the continent, if they, in short, were full of hopes, there might be some reason why the manufacturers should be full of fears. It is admitted, however, that this is not the case; it is admitted by the farmer, that the price of long wool is sufficiently high, and it is admitted by the manufacturer that the farmer makes no complaints; and these two admissions appear to me to form a plain proof that the measure would be unaccompanied with danger.

“ I have hitherto been arguing all along as if the question I had to deal with was the permission to export British wool, and as if that was the only question at issue ; but it will now, perhaps, be advisable to come to some more tangible point, by stating an opinion upon the proposition which it is supposed we shall have practically to decide upon. This proposition, then, I understand to be a measure of two-fold nature, which it is believed that Ministers intend to submit to the consideration of Parliament, and by which they propose to repeal the duties on foreign wool, and the prohibition of the export of British wool. To this measure, then, which, from consisting of two parts, must, when brought forward by Ministers, who declare they will not agree to one part unless they carry the other, be considered as one individual measure, I shall undoubtedly feel bound to give my support, because I am satisfied that while one branch of the measure will be perfectly harmless, the other will be found highly beneficial to the country. Having now stated the part which I shall feel bound to take upon a question which appears to me most important to the woollen manufacture, I cannot conclude without expressing my anxious hope that no attempt will be made either to impede its progress, or to endanger its success.

“ I remain, &c. &c.,

“ MILTON.”

“ Geo. Banks, Esq.”

MR. BANKS'S SECOND LETTER TO LORD MILTON.

“ Leeds, 27th Jan. 1824.

“ My Lord,

“ I have received the letter your lordship did me the honour to write to me on the 19th and 21st instant, and to-day the gentlemen from Bradford, Halifax, and Dewsbury, have met again at my house, to take into consideration your lordship's reply to my letter of the 27th of December last.

“ I am directed by them to say, that they see with great regret the determination of your lordship's mind, and cannot help thinking that if you could have made it convenient to meet the long wool interest, they would not have failed, as I have done, in changing your lordship's opinion, the private right to which no man can question, although, unfortunately for us, it is decidedly at variance with our own knowledge and experience, with the experience and opinion of Lord Harewood, and your present colleague, and, I will venture to say, of more than one-half of your constituents amongst the clothiers, as was evinced by the appeal

made to the seventeen clothing districts surrounding Leeds, of which I apprised your Lordship at the time.

“As I did not, my Lord, intend to run away with your imagination at the expense of your judgment, do permit me, once again, to re-state my arguments, and to call your lordship’s attention to them :—

“That long wool, such as is used in the manufacturing of worsted goods, is the exclusive growth of this country, and its growth is confined to certain districts only in this country, and that no goods such as are called worsted stuffs, are made in any other country in the world.

“That no other raw material can be named which is under similar circumstances.

“That the foreigner takes already to the full amount that he requires of long wool in the manufactured state, (that is, with three or four times its original value added to it in British labour,) because he can get it nowhere else. Look at the immense increase in the export of stuffs since 1816.

“That there is no complaint from any persons concerned either in the growth or manufacture of long wool.

“Here, my lord, is a plain and distinct statement, resting on strong and notorious facts, and which requires no meretricious aid ; anything beyond this in my letter was meant purely as illustrative, and by no means to take your judgment by surprise. From the first we have disclaimed for the subject any other than a national consideration.

“May I be allowed to remind your lordship, that you have not noticed these arguments, or pointed out to us in what way the export of British wool was to be useful to any British subject ?

“A reference to my former letter will, I think, satisfy you that I made no attempt to show the manufacture of long wool was in danger of destruction. We know we shall retain the home, that is, our best market ; but what we contend is, that we are now, (against all principles of political economy, nay, we submit, against common sense, and without being asked by any parties concerned to do so,) to be called upon to part with that to foreigners in a raw state, which they must take from us in a manufactured state, to the great disadvantage of a numerous population, consumers of the various products of the soil.

“Your lordship, we apprehend, is under a mistake in supposing that the manufacturers of Flanders (from Abbeville we expect none) will have to contend with disadvantages in the transport of wool.

“ From the coast of Lincolnshire to the coast of Flanders will require less expense to convey the article, than into the manufacturing parts of Yorkshire and Lancashire.

“ The proof your lordship has offered from the circumstance of there being no complaint from either the grower or manufacturer of long wool, that the export trade will be unaccompanied with danger, appears to us singular, and we certainly cannot accede to it. We are well, my lord—in a sound state—and having no plethora, have no need to part with anything : all we want is to be let alone, and to continue to serve ourselves and our country in the most effectual way.

“ So far then, my lord, I have argued with you as if the export of British wool was the only question at issue ; but, say you, I will willingly part with the British wool, because the Ministers say we will not give up the duty on wool imported on any other terms. Let us see how the Ministers will stand in this case. They laid on the duty avowedly as a source of revenue, (at the instigation, it was said, of the landed interest,) and as such it has risen from two to four hundred thousand pounds, and is expected to produce half a million ; will they abandon the measure, then, because it has doubled their expectations ?

“ The export of woollens, in the mean time, is also increased, though the woollen manufacturer contends, and we have no doubt with great truth, that it has not increased in the proportion it would have done without the tax. But is that a reason why another branch of business, which has done well, is doing well, and, if spared legislative interference, will continue to do well, should be experimented upon ?

“ Is there no remedy to be found for this disease in the woollen trade, but to draw it off by grafting it on a sound body ? Can the wisdom of Parliament devise no other cure for a disorder of its own creating ? Pardon me, my lord, I am now off my own ground, but I have been gradually led there.

“ A friend of mine, a shrewd and intelligent man, lately, in conversation with me, suggested a plan which deserves consideration for its simplicity. The duty on wool imported is sixpence per pound ; no trade suffers from this duty but the export.

“ Narrow cloth may be taken as requiring one pound per yard, and broad cloth as two pounds per yard : grant, then, a drawback of sixpence per yard on narrow, and one shilling per yard on broad cloth of all qualities, from the lowest into which foreign wool enters, to the highest quality : here is no temptation to fraud, except to the lowest qualities, into which some English wool may

be introduced, and drawback claimed for as entirely foreign. It is clear, then, that any drawback so obtained must operate as a bounty to the English short-wool grower, and the remainder of the tax, if not wanted as a source of revenue, would very well afford to pay it.

“ Next Monday I leave this country for Italy, and any correspondence after that day I must beg your lordship will address to Mr. Fawcett, Bradford, the chairman of the committee there, and where the correspondence with the other districts interested in this question will centre.

“ I have the honour to be, &c. &c.,

“ To Lord Viscount Milton.”

“ GEORGE BANKS.”

LORD MILTON'S REPLY.

“ Milton, January 30, 1824.

“ Dear Sir,

“ Though I fear that conviction is not likely to follow on either side, I hasten to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, in order that I may assure you, before you leave this country, that there is no person to whom my ears listen more willingly, and therefore I am afraid that even a personal interview with others would have failed to produce any other effect.

“ With the state of the argument, I think I may say I am perfectly well acquainted; for ever since the year 1816, when the question of export was started, it has been familiar to my mind, and has been the subject of my thoughts at various times, when it attracted no public attention; and I have always conceived it precisely in the same manner in which you state it. It must, however, be acknowledged, that the argument never made that impression on my mind, which I am well aware that it has made upon many other persons; and probably this may arise from the different view (whether right or wrong is not to be discussed,) that it has been my lot to take of the causes of commercial prosperity. I say, then, that even if the export of wool was the question at issue, which it is not, my opinion would remain the same; but I must again remind you, that that is not the question, at least not the practical one; and it appears to me that this circumstance has almost escaped your consideration. The real practical question is, whether the measure proposed by Government,—confined as it is, and composed of two different parts, viz. *repeal of the duty* and *repeal of the prohibition*, but constituting (as Ministers say it must) an indivisible measure—be or be not advantageous to the country. This, I repeat, is the question which gentlemen engaged in the long wool

trade have to consider ; and as it appears to me that little doubt can be entertained on the subject, I venture again to express my earnest hope that no impediment will be thrown in the way of its progress. With the situation of Ministers on this question I have nothing to do. If they are guilty of any inconsistencies, it is *their* business to defend themselves : my business is to judge of the measures they propose, and to act according to that judgment. The only measure I ever proposed on the subject was to repeal the tax, and that motion I would have repeated if it had not been deemed fruitless by those who felt an interest in it, both in and out of Parliament. And here I cannot help reminding you, that the measure which now excites so much apprehension in one branch of the woollen manufacture, originated in a conference held at Lord Liverpool's, attended not only by members of Parliament, but by deputies from the different clothing districts, the express object of which was to obtain the repeal of the duty. I know some persons may think that the same end could be obtained by granting what is called a drawback ; financiers were formerly very fond of these contrivances ; but whatever purposes they may have answered, (generally political ones,) they do not appear to me to have much simplicity in them ; and in this particular instance I should think it impracticable to arrange such a system upon any fair basis. Besides, I suspect that the gentleman who suggested it to you did not advert to the operation of this duty upon the community at large ; for though it may be said that no trade but the export suffers from this duty, it surely will not be denied that the consumers as well as the manufacturers feel its pressure, and to them no relief would be afforded by a drawback. Here, however, I am travelling, as lawyers say, out of the record, and I will not take up any more of your time than to express my regret that this is the last occasion upon which I shall have to correspond with you on the subject.

“ If I could persuade you to pass a night or two here on your way to the continent, it would give me great pleasure, and you will find it scarcely out of your road.

“ I remain, dear Sir, &c. &c.,

“ MILTON.”

“ George Banks, Esq.”

The above correspondence has been given at length, because it was referred to by the Duke of Richmond, in the proceedings of which an account will be given hereafter.

We will now revert to the public meetings, and the proceedings which took place consequent on the propositions made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

There were two objects in view,—one to fix the period when the tax should cease, the other to endeavour to obtain a return of duty on the wool on hand which had paid the duty.

With respect to the first, a meeting was held of the wool and woollen trades, at which John Maitland, Esq. was in the chair; and another meeting of foreign wool holders, at which James Riley, Esq. was in the chair; and communications from each were made to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

With respect to the other object,—the return of duty on duty-paid wool on hand,—a meeting was held at the London Tavern, on the 17th March, but Mr. Maitland being confined at home from illness, and on account of his advanced years and bodily infirmities having retired from business, the compiler of these Memoirs, James Bischoff, was called to the chair, when the following resolutions were unanimously carried:—

“ 1. That it is highly expedient and desirable that a committee should be appointed to superintend the general interests of the wool and woollen trades; that the committee should consist of persons interested in each separate branch, viz., importers of Spanish and German wool, holders of wool, as well that which is bonded in warehouses as that which has paid the duty on importation,—and also manufacturers and persons having stocks of cloth, and whose factories or connections make them well acquainted with the interests of each manufacturing district in every part of the kingdom.

“ 2. That the committee, so constituted, may consult each and every department of the trade, and ascertain what will be most conducive to the general interest, and communicate with Government.

“ 3. That the committee have full power to take such measures as they may think best for the general interest.

“ 4. That the committee consist of the twenty following gentlemen, with power to add to their numbers:—John Maitland, Esq., Sir J. W. Lubbock, Bart., John Austin, Esq., James Bischoff, Esq., Josh. Bond, Esq., Thos. Brooke, Esq., Cornelius Buller, Esq., J. B. Heath, Esq., Andrew Hoffman,

Esq., Parnell Hicks, Esq., Andrew Loughnan, Esq., Donald Maclean, Esq., W. Playne, Esq., James Riley, Esq., Thos. Sheppard, Esq., John Saunders, Esq., Edward Sieveking, Esq., Henry Sterry, Esq., Charles Webb, Esq., O. Willans, Esq.”

At a meeting of the committee, held 18th March, it was resolved that the following report be transmitted to the Chancellor of the Exchequer:—

“ The committee of the wool and woollen trades, comprising individuals interested in every branch of the wool and woollen trade, having duly considered the state of their trade as connected with the general prosperity, and bearing in mind the intention of His Majesty’s Government, as expressed at the opening of Parliament in His Majesty’s gracious speech to the gentlemen of the House of Commons, recommending them to make such arrangements in some parts of our system of taxation as may afford relief to certain important branches of the national industry ; and also from the declaration by the Chancellor of the Exchequer upon the discussion grounded upon His Majesty’s speech, are of opinion that the most effectual way of reducing the tax on foreign wool, and consulting the general interests, will be the immediate reduction of the tax to one penny per lb. on all foreign wool which shall be imported, and a return of fivepence per lb. on bags of wool remaining entire, and upon which the duty has been paid.

“ The committee beg leave to state a few reasons for coming to this conclusion, partly to show to His Majesty’s Ministers that the opinion is not adopted without proper consideration of the interest of the manufacturers and the trade, and also with a view to the public revenue.

“ According to the best estimate the committee are able to form, it appears that the stock of wool upon which duty has been paid, and which remains in the bags as imported, may amount to about three months’ consumption, or from four to five millions of pounds weight, making a return of duty from £80,000 to £100,000. The committee conceive it can, under no circumstances, amount to more than £100,000 : but if the boon thus given by His Majesty’s Government to the woollen trade was carried further than that point, and extended either to wool taken out of the bags in which it was imported, to wool in progress of manufacture, or to cloth, the committee can make no calculation of the amount which might be demanded ; but, in justice it may be said, that the possessor of foreign wool in process of manufacture, or of cloth, has an equal claim to the return with the holders of wool in bags.

“ The committee also are of opinion, that the wool and woollen trades will continue in an unsettled and perplexed state until the tax is decided. A stronger proof of this cannot be given than that the East India Company, who had appointed to receive tenders for the supply of a considerable order of cloth, have suspended all their proceedings respecting those tenders, and declined to renew them till this question is decided. But the committee are unanimous in their opinion, that the repeal of the tax, with the return of duty, would give an impetus to trade highly beneficial to the large branch interested in it, and the employment of the population would not only continue uninterrupted, but would materially increase.”

It was also resolved, “ That in case the Chancellor of the Exchequer should refuse to accede to the terms proposed, the mode of proceeding most advantageous for the interests of the trade will be to take off twopence per lb. on the 5th July, and the remaining threepence on the 5th of Oct.”

Mr. Bischoff having been desired to attend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, reported that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had received applications from the holders of foreign wool in the country, and manufacturers and holders of cloth, praying that return of duty might be made to them, and stating, that in consequence thereof he did not think any return could be made. The committee, therefore, came to the following resolution :—

“ That this committee disclaim all intention of applying for any return of duty, or any allowance on cloth or wool in process of manufacture, but trust that a return may be made on all wool in original packages, on which the duty has been paid, thereby putting them on the same footing with the holders of wool in bond ; and the committee are quite confident that this boon will be highly beneficial and satisfactory.”

It was also unanimously resolved—

“ That a copy of this resolution be sent to the manufacturing districts, with a request that they would cooperate with this committee, by sending similar memorials to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, as the only possible means of obtaining a return of the duty on wool in original packages, not having the least hope of getting any return upon wool in process of manufacture, or upon cloth ; and that those memorials should be transmitted to the chairman of the wool and woollen trades.”

The chairman was requested to wait upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer with a copy of the first resolution.

At a meeting of the committee, held the 20th of March, 1824, it was unanimously resolved,—“That the following petition to the House of Commons be handed about for signature, and that Mr. Wilson be requested to present it:”—

“To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled;

“The humble petition of merchants, manufacturers, and wool-holders in London,

“SHEWETH,

“That many holders of wool have at present on hand a quantity of foreign wools, upon which they have paid a duty of sixpence per pound, but which wools still remain in their original packages.

“That your petitioners were compelled by the tax on foreign wool, either to deposit their wools in the bonding warehouses, at an inconvenient distance from their own premises, and out of their care and control, or to pay a duty immediately on importation.

“That the proposal of His Majesty’s Government to reduce the tax on the importation of foreign wool to one penny per pound, must unavoidably expose all those who have paid the duty of sixpence per pound to a severe loss, and place them in a most disadvantageous situation as compared with those persons who have wools in bond, and who will be able considerably to undersell those who have paid the duty.

“Your petitioners, therefore, humbly pray your Honourable House to take their case into your serious consideration, and place the holders of wool, duty paid, as much as practicable upon the same footing as importers and holders of silk in original packages.”

The following memorial was sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer:—

“To the Right Honourable Frederick I. Robinson, the Chancellor of His Majesty’s Exchequer, &c. &c.

“The memorial of the woollen manufacturers of the county of Gloucester,

“SHEWETH,

“That your memorialists anxiously look to His Majesty’s Government for protection in the arrangements that are taking place relative to the repeal of the wool tax; that they hope the same provision will be made for their relief as has been granted under similar circumstances to the silk trade.

“That your memorialists disclaim any intention of asking for

any return of duty on wools in process of manufacture, or on manufactured goods; but that they confidently trust that a drawback will be allowed to them of fivepence per pound on wools in their possession, in the original packages, which have paid the duty.

"That your memorialists, under the security of such drawback, would approve of the repeal of the wool tax taking place immediately.

"Signed on behalf of the manufacturers of the county of Gloucester,

"EDWARD SHEPPARD, Chairman."

At a meeting of the committee, held on the 23rd of March, 1824, James Bischoff in the chair :—

"Resolved unanimously—

"That the following statement be transmitted to the Chancellor of the Exchequer :—

"STATEMENT MADE BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WOOL AND WOOLLEN TRADES IN LONDON.

"This committee acknowledge with thankfulness the great benefit which the woollen trade must eventually derive from the reduction of the tax on foreign wool. They anticipate the cheering hope of an extensive demand for their manufactures, thereby giving employment and support to the immense and increasing population dependant upon this branch of our national industry.

"If His Majesty's Government would consent to the repayment of the duty to the extent of fivepence per pound on wool duty paid, but still in the original packages in which it was imported, thereby placing the manufacturers and merchants who have paid that duty on the same footing as those who have wool in bond, it would be a most desirable and beneficial compensation, and prevent severe if not ruinous loss.

"It has been said that this return of duty was not in contemplation at the meeting held in London on the 27th of February: this is admitted to be true; it was not then thought that His Majesty's Government would have returned a duty upon any articles; the meeting therefore resolved, under the circumstances, that it would be best to reduce the duty at two separate and distinct periods, rather than reduce the whole at one time. When it was seen that His Majesty's Government had consented to return duties paid on silk, both in its raw and manufactured state, another general meeting was in consequence called of the trade, and they were unanimously of opinion that both the trades ought to be placed as much as possible upon the same footing.

“ They were persuaded that the return of duty upon unbroken packages of wool would in a great measure obviate the evil anticipated from an immediate repeal of the tax. The committee are, however, aware, that they cannot go further: the cases of the silk and woollen manufactures are not afterwards parallel: the only line, therefore, which can be drawn, and in which the exact quantity of wool duty-paid can be defined, is wool in the original packages; and this, when declared upon the oath of the holder to be the actual wool, which was imported in those packages, and inspected by experienced men, must be a secure guard against any unfair demand on the public purse.

“ The committee cannot conclude this statement, without urging the immediate attention of His Majesty’s Government to this important measure. They have before stated that the East India Company have postponed all their purchases; considerable orders are also in London, which, till this is decided, will not be given to the manufacturer; the manufacturers are afraid, under present circumstances, to open any bags of foreign wool, and many have discharged their workpeople,—others must follow the same course, and consequently great distress must soon follow. But if the boon thus requested, which will not amount to £100,000, and is an act of equity, be granted, the committee trust that His Majesty’s government will have the gratifying and delightful reflection that their judicious and liberal measures have given renewed and increased life and energy to the staple manufacture of the country.

“ Though this committee are averse to trespass again upon the time of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, they would not fulfil their duty to themselves, or the large body whose interests they represent, if they did not most respectfully but most earnestly request the serious attention of His Majesty’s Government to the above statement.

“ This committee hope that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will see the propriety of their request, and will consent to allow a drawback on such foreign wools upon which duty has been paid, but which yet remains in the original packages; but if that should not be the case, the committee trust that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will permit the following deputation to have an interview with him, at as early a period as may be convenient, and that he will allow them to be accompanied by the representatives in Parliament for Yorkshire, Wiltshire, Somersetshire, Gloucestershire, London, Bristol, and some other members of the House of Commons.

“ The deputation from the committee will consist of Mr. James Bischoff; Sir J. W. Lubbock, importer of Spanish wool; J. B.

Heath, Esq., bank director, importer of German wool; Thomas Sheppard, Esq., connected with Somersetshire; William Playne, Esq., connected with Gloucestershire; and John Saunders, Esq., connected with Wiltshire.

(Signed) "JAMES BISCHOFF, Chairman."

A meeting being held of the committee, 24th March, a letter was read from F. C. Freeling, Esq., secretary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, appointing to-morrow, 25th of March, at one o'clock, to receive the deputation.

"Resolved, that the members of Parliament be requested to meet the deputation to-morrow."

At a meeting held at the King's Arms Tavern, Palace Yard, Westminster, present—Lord Edward Somerset, M.P., the Hon. W. S. Lascelles, M. P., Sir William Guise, Bart., M.P., Sir J. W. Lubbock, Bart., M.P., J. A. Stuart Wortley, Esq., M. P., Col. Webb, M. P., Richard Hart Davis, Esq., M. P., George Bridges, Esq., M. P., Barnsby Cooper, Esq., M.P., Thomas Wilson, Esq., M.P., John Pearse, Esq., M. P., Joseph Cripps, Esq., M. P., and the deputation, with other members of the London committee.

Mr. James Bischoff was called to the chair, and was desired to open the business and state the case to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The deputation subsequently had a long interview with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but he gave no reason to hope that any return would be allowed of duty already paid on foreign wool, and that he should take an early opportunity of stating in the House of Commons, how and when the duty would be reduced.

Upon the return of the deputation, it was resolved that a general meeting of the trade should be called on the Saturday following, in order to receive the report of the committee.

On the following day, viz. 26th March,—

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said, in the House of Commons, that it was extremely desirable that the precise nature of the proposition he had to make with respect to the duties on wool, should be before the house; and as he could not make that proposition but in a committee, he would avail himself of the present opportunity. Afterwards, when a bill should have been founded upon the resolution he had to pro-

pose, it would be competent to gentlemen to discuss the subject. What he had then to propose was this, that, instead of repealing the existing duties on foreign wool immediately, or on the 5th July next, as he had originally intended, the reduction should take place by degrees. He had submitted the proposition to some of those persons who were most interested in the measure, and they considered it would be the most convenient means of effecting the object he had in view. He should move, therefore, that the duty of sixpence per pound should be reduced to one penny in the pound, but in the following manner:—that it should be reduced on the 10th of September next from sixpence to threepence, and on the 10th of December next from threepence to one penny. He should also move, that on the latter day, the present prohibition on the exportation of raw wool should be entirely removed, as well as that upon certain articles of wool which were so loosely manufactured, that they could be easily converted again into wool, and ultimately into cloth. By way of protection, however, to the trade in those articles, he proposed to place a duty of twopence per pound on the exportation of raw wool, which was more than he originally intended; and upon those articles which were loosely or partially manufactured, a duty of 16 per cent. upon the amount of their value, which would, upon the average, be about the same as twopence per lb. on the raw article. As he did not intend to take off the duties instantaneously, he thought it would be unnecessary to return any part of the present duties to the holders of wool, because they would have a fair opportunity of getting rid of their surplus. If he could have acted entirely as he wished, he would not have imposed so high a duty on exportation, but it was thought that when a system of laws, which had been long cherished with what he confessed he thought a mistaken veneration, was about to be abrogated, something was due to the interests of those who thought they would be affected by the proposed measures. He therefore thought it would not be inconsistent with the policy of the Government to concede something to the notions of those persons; and for this reason it was, that he had acquiesced in a duty of twopence instead of the almost nominal duty of one penny. He flattered himself that he had succeeded

in allaying the apprehensions which had been entertained on this score, although he was not convinced that there was any reason for them. He believed that if the long wool were exported without any restriction, no ill effects would result, because that wool would always be cheaper here than any where else; and if the duty were taken off foreign wool, it would more than compensate our manufacturers for the seeming disadvantage, and prevent the foreign manufacturers from availing themselves of it to any extent. He knew it was said there could be no great benefit attending this experiment. If, however, it should appear, when the measure came to be put in practice, that the duty did really amount to a prohibition, it would be necessary to apply to the house to remedy that inconvenience. At all events it was wise in the first instance to put on a duty even higher than he could have wished it to be, in order to prevent any of the ill consequences which might attend the opening the trade. The plan would then not operate all at once, but gradually, and he trusted would afford no one a just ground of complaint.

Mr. WORTLEY objected strongly that that description of wool, which was the peculiar growth of this country, should be exported in such a way as would enable the foreign manufacturer to compete with us successfully. All the petitions he had presented to the house looked at this subject in the same way. With respect to the duty which was to be imposed, he must take leave to tell his Right Honourable friend, that he did not look upon it either as a prohibition, or as a temporary measure. The manufacturers of wool, his constituents, claimed as a right that their trade should be protected to that extent, as far as it was connected with the article which was the exclusive produce of England. All that they sought was a protection equal to the disadvantages they were likely to sustain by the exportation of that article: they said, Give us this, and we are quite willing to enter into competition with all the rest of the world. He understood it was not to be expected that much raw wool would go out of the country, but that a great deal manufactured into yarn would.

A general meeting of the wool and woollen trades was held on Saturday, 27th March, Mr. James Bischoff in the chair.

The chairman read the following report, which was adopted unanimously :—

“ The committee of the wool and woollen trades, appointed at a general meeting, held on the 17th inst. report,—

“ That in pursuance of the resolutions of the general meeting, they have used their utmost endeavours, both by representations to His Majesty’s Government, and by interviews with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to obtain a return of duty on all wools duty-paid remaining in the original packages.

“ They adopted that course, partly from the declaration of His Majesty’s Government, that if any return was made it could not be extended beyond that line ; and partly from the difficulty, if not absolute impossibility, to define the proportions of foreign wool, either in process of manufacture or manufactured, and from the full conviction, that, in order to get any return, it was necessary to confine that return to wools in the bags as imported.

“ Finding, at an interview which a deputation of the committee had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the 25th instant, and at which they were accompanied by several members of Parliament, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had received memorials from the manufacturing districts, praying that the holders of manufactured goods might be put upon the same footing as holders of wool, he had determined not to give a return to one branch which could not be extended to all ; and seeing that all hope of obtaining a drawback was at an end, the committee requested the Chancellor of the Exchequer to let his intentions as to the reduction of the tax be made public as soon as possible, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer consequently stated, in the House of Commons last night, that he should recommend the tax to be reduced in the following manner :—

From 6d. to 3d. per lb. on the 10th September.

From 3d. to 1d. per lb. on the 10th December.”

“ That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, &c. &c.”

On the 22nd May the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER

moved, that the order of the day be read for the Committee of the Wool Importation and Exportation Bill.

The reduced duty on importation was opposed by Mr. Curteis, member for Sussex; Mr. Benett, member for Wilts; and some members of the landed interest, but no division took place upon that point.

The exportation of British wool was opposed by Mr. Stuart Wortley, member for Yorkshire; Mr. Wilson, member for London, &c., and the House divided—

For permitting exportation	180
Against	20

Majority..... 160

Upon further discussion in Committee, an amendment was moved, reducing the duty on the exportation of British wool to one penny per lb., which was carried, and the following was the result:—

IMPORTATION.

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Hare skins, the 100 skins	1	0
Hare and coney wool, per lb.	0	2
Sheep or lambs' wool, or goats' or camels' wool or hair, per lb.	0	1

EXPORTATION.

Skins, viz. coney or hare, per 100 skins	1	0
Wool of sheep, lambs, hares, or coneys, per lb....	0	1
Woollen manufactures, or pretended manufactures, slightly wrought up, or put together so as the same may be reduced to and made use of as wool again, per lb.	0	1

C H A P T E R I I I .

1825.

Mr. James Bischoff's Interview with Mr. Huskisson—Proposed Reduction of Duty on Manufactured Goods from Foreign Countries—Meeting of the Woollen Trade in London—Mr. Bischoff's Letter to Mr. Huskisson—Circular to the Manufacturing Districts—Answer thereto—Meeting with Mr. Huskisson—Opinions of Manufacturers on Mr. Huskisson's Measures—Letter from Mr. James Bischoff to Mr. Huskisson—Meeting with him—Customs Consolidation Bill proposed—Mr. Huskisson's Speech thereon—Bill carried.

ON the 22nd February, 1825, the compiler of these Memoirs received a note from the Right Honourable William Huskisson, President of the Board of Trade, requesting him to call there on the following day, and to be accompanied by any gentleman who might be well acquainted with the woollen trade in all its branches.

Mr. Maitland, who had been so long chairman of the wool and woollen trade, being ill, and Mr. Sheppard, who had been for a long period most conversant with the trade in the West of England, being from home, Mr. Bischoff requested John Pearse, Esq., member of Parliament for Devizes, one of the directors of the Bank of England, extensively concerned in army clothing and the cloth trade, well acquainted with the woollen manufacture and the trade of the country, to accompany him.

Mr. HUSKISSON informed them, that it had been under contemplation by government to make considerable alterations in the commercial laws of this country, to adopt a more liberal system, and, as respected manufactures, to repeal those laws which prohibited the importation of certain foreign goods, and to reduce those heavy duties which now acted as a virtual prohibition to their importation, so that, whilst continuing a decided preference to the British manufacturer, they would allow the importation from foreigners. Mr. Huskisson gave

some very powerful reasons for this change, viz., the hostile feeling which our narrow policy had produced in other countries, and the steps which were in progress in Holland and in Germany to check or prohibit the introduction of British manufactures; and he was desirous of ascertaining the opinions of men interested in the trade, as to those changes, and such duties on the importation of foreign woollen manufactures as would meet their views.

Mr. Bischoff replied, that the changes proposed might be very desirable, and it was his opinion that if the duties on the raw material, dyeing wares, oil, and other articles used in the manufactures, were repealed, and the British manufacturer was put upon the same footing as the foreigner with respect to the price of food, and particularly corn, little or no duty on foreign manufactures would be required, as the only fear arose from the consequences of those measures, carried for what was considered the protection of agriculture, but which were a bonus to the foreigner.

Mr. Huskisson admitted the strength of the reasons, and requested that the opinion of those most interested and best informed might be obtained, without exciting the fears of the manufacturers.

For that purpose Mr. Bischoff called together some of his neighbours most conversant with the subject, and wrote to the leading manufacturers in the country. The following correspondence will best show the result :—

LETTER FROM MR. JAMES BISCHOFF TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
WILLIAM HUSKISSON, &c. &c.

“Basinghall Street, 24th February, 1825.

“Sir,

“Anxious to give you correct information respecting the proposed duty on woollen manufactures, in order to protect the British manufacturer but not to prevent the importation, I have consulted two of my neighbours, viz. Mr. Sheppard and Mr. Bond, (the latter the partner of Mr. Maitland). We are of opinion, that, under the present circumstances of this country, with taxes on raw material and dyeing wares, and the still more heavy virtual taxation from corn laws, it would be dangerous to allow the importation of any foreign woollens at a protecting duty of less than from 25 to 30 per cent. We form this opinion not from

feeling the least objection to the change of policy now contemplated, but with the full conviction that these measures, followed up with as much liberality as would be just to our own manufacturers, will most essentially contribute to the prosperity, not only of commerce, but of the British manufactures, and without fear of meeting foreign competition, if placed on an equal footing. In order to show that this is not a hasty conclusion, and that the rate of duty is not fixed too high, it may be desirable to state the grounds of the calculation. The coarsest cloth which has been imported into this country under the warehousing act, has been sold, dyed blue with indigo, at 1s. 10d. to 2s. 6d. per yard. It is manufactured in Poland, principally by the Jews, where food is cheap, and wool extremely low; and is sold white, in the state in which it comes from the fulling mills, at the fairs of Frankfort-sur-Oder and Leipzig. It is dyed and finished there, at Berlin, and in Silesia, and is again sold at succeeding fairs, and finds its way to every market in Europe. These qualities have an advantage in this market of about 15 per cent.; their weight, as compared with their value, is disadvantageous to them.

"Cloth from 3s. to 8s. per yard is manufactured principally in Silesia: our wool tax, even at one penny per lb., is a great bonus to the manufacturers of Silesia: their machinery is upon improved principles: the King of Prussia gives every possible encouragement, by high rewards and patents, and by sending intelligent mechanics to every part of Europe, to see other manufactures. Their cloth of these qualities is at least 25 per cent. cheaper than English, and has driven the British cloth from the markets of Europe, Turkey, Egypt, and Persia, and has made great inroads in China: and every effort is now used to supply the South American markets direct from Hamburg. Cloth above 8s. per yard is also made in Silesia; but the principal competition is felt from Prussian Flanders, Verviers, Aix-la-Chapelle, and the borders of the Rhine. It is less formidable than the competition in coarser cloths; but as the great market for fine fabrics is our home trade, great alarm would be excited in the manufacturing districts.

"I hope I may be permitted to remark, that if, under existing circumstances, this protection is necessary in the British market, it must be evident that the distant markets are those to which we can alone sell English woollens, and these are preserved by our superior navigation, our enterprise and capital, which advantages must gradually decrease as the manufactures and capital of Prussia and other continental states increase, and therefore the repeal of taxes on raw materials and dyeing wares, together with the gradual

but total repeal of the corn laws, must be looked to as the only means of preserving to this country the most important branches of our national industry.

"I have the honour to be, &c.

"JAMES BISCHOFF."

"To the Right Honourable William Huskisson,
President of the Board of Trade, &c."

The following circular was also sent to the principal manufacturing towns engaged in the wool and woollen trades:—

"London, 24th February, 1825.

"Dear Sir,

"I received a note from Mr. Huskisson, desiring I would call upon him at the Board of Trade. Mr. Pearse was kind enough to accompany me. Mr. Huskisson informed us that it was in contemplation by His Majesty's Government to make considerable alterations in the duties on the importation of several articles; and, instead of fixing such a high duty for consumption as is in reality a prohibition, to adopt such a scale as will be a sufficient protection to the manufacturers of this country, but will open the home market in some degree to foreigners. Mr. Huskisson stated some important reasons for these alterations, viz. to prevent measures now in contemplation by some of the continental states, grounded upon the restrictive or prohibitory policy which has heretofore governed the commerce of Great Britain, and to set a liberal example to other countries.

"Having stated so much, he then asked what duty would in my opinion be a sufficient protection to the woollen manufacture in its various branches. Although the sound and liberal principles of the measure now in contemplation must be admitted, I declined to give an answer upon a question of so much importance, involving the interests of such an immense population, and requested permission to consult you and other manufacturers,—observing, however, that if the duties on rapeseed, olive oil, dyeing wares, and all articles used in manufactures, were repealed, and the manufacturers placed on the same footing with foreigners in the price of food, particularly of corn, they would have no fear of foreign competition either at home or abroad: but so long as the price of bread in Prussia is threepence or fourpence, and in England eleven pence and one shilling, a heavy protecting duty must be required on all woollen articles, sufficient to cover the taxes falling peculiarly on the trade, and the increased cost of labour, which forms so great a component part of all manufactures; and I gave my opinion, that the coarser fabrics would be most endangered, because, under the

warehousing system, the sales of foreign cloths under five shillings per yard, compared with cloths above five shillings per yard, bear the proportion of more than one hundred to one.

"Mr. Huskisson admitted this argument to its fullest extent, and is anxious to obtain the sentiments of a few respectable, intelligent men in every branch of the manufacture, so that such duties may be fixed as will be a sufficient protection, but not a prohibition. I shall therefore be obliged to you for your opinion, as to what duty you think will be sufficient protection to your branch of manufacture, that it may be communicated to Mr. Huskisson. Mr. Huskisson expressed his desire that the intentions of government may not yet be made public, as they may excite unnecessary alarm. The measures are under consideration, but not determined upon.

"I am, &c. &c.,

"JAMES BISCHOFF."

The answers which were received to that circular, and which corroborated the opinion given in the preceding letter to Mr. Huskisson, were transmitted to him in original. Some of the letters from the manufacturing districts will be interesting, showing the feeling and opinion which then prevailed.

LETTER FROM RICHARD FAWCETT, ESQ., OF BRADFORD, YORKSHIRE, TO MR. J. BISCHOFF.

"Bradford, 26th February, 1825.

"DEAR SIR,

"I am obliged to you for communicating to me the intentions of His Majesty's Government respecting a very important alteration in the duties on the import of manufactured articles. Of the wise and liberal policy that His Majesty's Government are pursuing with regard to trade, there ought only to be one opinion; and provided they are determined to go through with the measure, so as to place the English manufacturer upon an equal footing with the foreigner, I am sure there will be no opposition; but if they are determined to send out the raw material from this country with a low protecting duty, and then, having it manufactured into goods, with corn at a much lower rate than it can be grown here, and with the advantages of oil and dyeing wares with no duties upon them, again brought into this country, and placed against goods manufactured under the unfavourable circumstances of corn laws and high duties upon oil and dyeing wares, it will be an act of the highest injustice. When we had an interview with Mr. Huskisson last spring, we

understood that it was the intention of His Majesty's Government to follow up the permission to export English wools by the repeal of the corn laws, and taking off the duty on oils and dyeing wares. If this is done, we shall be the last to complain of the measure; but till this is done it is incomplete. It would be difficult, nor would I at present take upon me to say, what would be a sufficient protection to the manufacturers of this neighbourhood; but it must be considerable to do this, as the quantum of labour forms a very considerable part of the value of our manufactured goods, as much as four or five times the value of the raw material. As such we hope that government will see it right to give us a high protecting duty, until the restrictions upon the free import of corn are removed, and the duties on oil and dyeing wares are reduced. I shall feel obliged by any future communication on this subject, and shall be happy if any information I can give may be of service, so as to fix the duties that they may be a sufficient protection.

"I am, &c.,

"RICHARD FAWCETT."

LETTER FROM EDWARD SHEPPARD, ESQ., TO MR. JAMES BISCHOFF.

"Uley, Gloucestershire, 26th February, 1825.

"DEAR SIR,

"The unexpected and important communication which your letter of the 24th instant contains, has engaged my very serious attention, and the more I consider it the more I am impressed with the danger of the experiment to the woollen interests of the kingdom; for at a time when our oldest connections in Prussia and the United States of America are encouraging their own manufactures, and shutting us out by duties and prohibitions, the consequence of interference in our home market would be most fatal. So much have the manufactures of woollen cloths improved in Prussia within these few years, by which they have been assisted by high duties and prohibitions, that they are now almost competent to their own supply except in the very finest cloths, and those they can obtain from the Netherlands on cheaper terms than from England. I have received letters from the first houses in Prussia lately, so communitary on these points, that no doubt can exist upon them. It is indeed obvious that where the price of corn, consequently of labour, is so much lower, as in the Netherlands and Prussia, that it would be impossible for the manufacturers of this country to stand the competition unless protected by high duties;

it is clear that we cannot meet them on the continent, and the same causes would make them undersell us in our own market.

“ You do me the favour to ask me my opinion, in conjunction with other manufacturers, as to what I should consider a sufficient protection for the fine woollen trade, if the proposed measure should be carried into effect; and having conferred with one or two of my judicious manufacturing friends, I lose no time in giving you our joint opinion. They deprecate with me most entirely the agitation of the subject at all, which they think must be productive of evil, if not of most material injury to the wool trade, under any protecting duty. With respect to a protecting duty, we calculate that corn and labour being two-thirds dearer here than with our rivals in Prussia and the Netherlands, a duty of twenty per cent. would be necessary to countervail that disadvantage alone: taking the value of the raw material to be in the proportion of about double to that of the cost of labour in fine cloths, we find that the amount of the difference in labour would average twenty per cent. on the cost of such cloths. We do not here calculate the disadvantage of the British and the advantage that the foreign manufacturers would have by contiguity and preemption, on account of the raw materials being so completely within their reach; and on the score of machinery, we possess no advantage but what they partake of, for we have ourselves seen every description of such in use on the continent, viz., gig mills, patent shearing frames, &c. &c. on the newest and best construction; and we know that our German rivals are active, ingenious, and frugal as any people in the world; nor do we here calculate on the duties paid by the articles in use in the woollen manufacture.

“ I feel myself restricted by the nature of your communication, and from the expression of Mr. Huskisson’s wish, from making the subject of it more public than to the individuals I have mentioned; but it is really a question of such vital importance to all the woollen trade, that I must hope to be permitted, as soon as it may be allowed with propriety, to make it known to those who will be so much interested in it, unless, as I cannot but flatter myself, a more full consideration of the subject should induce His Majesty’s Ministers to relinquish the measure.

“ I am, &c.,

“ EDWARD SHEPPARD.”

LETTER FROM EDMUND GRUNDY, ESQ., TO MR. JAMES BISCHOFF.

“ Bury, Lancashire, 28th February, 1825.

“ Dear Sir,

“ I have consulted with a neighbouring manufacturer, Mr.

Hutchinson, and we have thought it best to state the effect the different taxes have upon our manufacture, by which you will perceive that, under existing circumstances, a very high protecting duty would be required; but if the duties upon oil, rapeseed, wool, and dye-wares were repealed, and more especially, if corn were permitted to be imported at all times paying a moderate duty, we should not fear meeting the foreign manufacturer in any market, convinced that a very great extension of our trade would be the consequence; and we sincerely hope the day is not far distant when the legislature will see the propriety of allowing each class of the community to procure what they require at the best and cheapest market.

"Believe me, &c. &c.

"EDMUND GRUNDY."

"The duty on oil and rape-seed is equal to an <i>ad</i> } <i>valorem</i> duty upon the goods of	2 percent.
" " On dye woods and dyeing wares.....	2 ditto.
" " On wool 1d. per lb.	5 ditto.
" " On corn laws	7½ ditto.
	<hr/> 16½d. ditto.

"The above estimate is rather below than above the mark, and is calculated for the general manufacture of Lancashire, which consists of goods made from the low short wools, but has no reference to those made from long wool. In estimating the effect of the corn laws, we have taken labour at 2s. 6d. per day in this country, and 1s. 6d. per day on the continent."

LETTER FROM BENJAMIN GOTT, ESQ., TO MR. JAMES BISCHOFF.

"Leeds, 28th February, 1825.

"Dear Sir,

"I find by your favour of the 24th inst. that Ministers have again turned their attention to the woollen manufacture, and that they have in view some material alterations, you say on the importation of several articles, and particularly foreign manufactures: by several articles I infer that the duty on raw materials will be repealed,—as the remaining one penny per lb. on wool, the duty on olive oil, on rapeseed, dye drugs, &c.; and that foreign woollens are to be admitted at some moderate duty into this country. When the commercial treaty was concluded with France, I recollect that it was deemed proper to protect the woollens of each country, (as it was then said,) by a reciprocal duty of ten per cent., (the import price of foreign wheat 48s., and soon raised, I think, to 52s., against

Mr. Pitt's opinion.) It is quite clear that we must, before we enter into equal competition with them, have the corn laws, as they now stand, either repealed or put into train for gradual abolition. After that is done, the more free the trade I should think the better, and until that is done, the natural advantages of coal, water, ports, &c., and of capital, enterprise, and our industrious population, can never have a fair chance. You well know the effects of restriction by the duty on foreign wool, and you see that the partial repeal of so oppressive and ruinous a measure, (which gave energy to the manufactures of America and the continent of Europe,) has caused an advance of great importance to the wool-grower in British wool—and that this is not owing to British wool and yarn being permitted to be exported is evident from this, that foreign wool, Spanish wool, German, &c. &c., have advanced, and are advancing. We must beg the favour of you to ascertain more clearly the views of Ministers, and then the subject may more correctly be brought before the trade here, at Huddersfield, Halifax, Rochdale, and the other manufacturing districts.

“ I remain, &c. &c.,

“ BENJAMIN GOTT.”

LETTER FROM JOHN BROOM, ESQ. TO MR. BISCHOFF.

“ Kidderminster, 3rd March, 1825.

“ Dear Sir,

“ I have lost no time in communicating the contents of your obliging letter of the 26th ult., to some of the most intelligent manufacturers of carpets in this town, and consulting with them on the subject to which it refers,—namely, ‘ The proposed reduction of duties by His Majesty's Government on the importation of carpets and other articles, by which our particular branch of the woollen manufacture of this country may be affected.’ In reply to which, I beg to state, with great deference, our entire conviction of the general utility of those liberal measures which have hitherto guided His Majesty's Government in relation to the commerce of this country; and therefore we cannot, in the present instance, when the proposed reduction in the scale of import duties on foreign carpets so immediately affects our own particular branch of manufacture, withhold our approval, provided, at the same time, a corresponding reduction be made in the import duties of such articles of foreign product as may enter essentially into the manufacture of carpets, chiefly flax, oil, dyeing wares, to which, as of paramount importance, we must add that of corn, the free admission of which into our ports, in our humble opinion, would confer incalculable benefit on the manufacturing interest of this country, not only as

respects the price of labour, but in leading foreign states to take our manufactured goods in exchange for their corn, and thus greatly assist in meeting the competition we encounter with our continental rivals in markets from which we are at the present time entirely shut out. We, therefore, most earnestly and respectfully call the attention of His Majesty's Government to a repeal of the restrictive laws on the import of foreign corn, as one of those salutary measures which we confidently expected would follow in the train of the hazardous, but, we venture to say wise, innovation on the restrictive system which His Majesty's Government have already commenced, in taking off the prohibitory laws as respects the export to other countries of wool, the growth of Great Britain; which step in its operation hitherto has been highly injurious to the manufacturers of English wool, inasmuch as it has advanced the price of English wool, by far the most important of the raw materials used by them in the manufacture of woollen goods, not less than 50 per cent., and in like proportion it has benefited the agricultural interest of the country.

"I am, respectfully, dear Sir,

"Yours truly,

"To James Bischoff, Esq."

"JOHN BROOM."

LETTER FROM MESSRS. JAMES GANDY AND CO. TO MR. BISCHOFF.

"Kendal, 4th March, 1825.

"Dear Sir,

"Your favour of the 24th ult. was received in due course: the subject is very important to the manufacturing interest of this kingdom. We cannot but admire the liberality of His Majesty's Ministers, and we think, under certain protecting duties, the admission of foreign manufactured woollens would not be injurious; however, it is necessary, should they be admitted, that not only the duties you mention ought to be conceded, but also alterations in the duty on wool imported. The manufacture of this district is principally coarse heavy woollens, made from wool similar to Iceland, Buenos Ayres, low German, and Portugal wools; the duty, you are aware, on these descriptions, will be from 15 to 20 per cent. on the prices we could now purchase them for in the several countries in which they are grown, or allowed to be exported from. If a duty could be rated on the invoice price, at the place from whence exported, on all wools under ninepence per pound, it would, we presume, be most satisfactory, provided it was not more than five or six per cent. Should this proposition be acceded to, we then are of opinion a duty of fifteen per cent. would be a sufficient

protection to the manufacturers of Kendal. In giving our opinion, we confine ourselves entirely to foreign manufactured goods, made from wool similar to what we have stated on the other side.

"We are, &c.,

"JAMES GANDY AND Co."

LETTER FROM EDWARD PHILLIPS, ESQ., CHAIRMAN OF THE WOOLLEN TRADE OF WILTSHIRE, TO MR. BISCHOFF.

"Dear Sir,

"I have received your favour of the 24th instant. I fully agree in opinion with Mr. Huskisson, that it would be highly desirable for the commerce of this country, if the multiplied restrictions which have prevented a free competition with foreigners could be rescinded, provided it could be done without giving such a shock to our manufacturing interests as would probably bring ruin on the manufacturer, and distress to the vast multitude of working poor now solely dependant on the prosperity of the woollen manufacture of this kingdom. The prohibition on the foreign manufactures here has grown up from our peculiar situation: as taxes multiplied, so in proportion it became necessary to multiply restrictions. We have grown up to a high and prosperous state, notwithstanding our relative dearth of subsistence, when compared with foreigners. If it is intended now to alter the system, very great care must be taken to do it by such gentle degrees as may enable the manufacturer to suit his trade to existing circumstances. An immediate removal of the restrictions might paralyse the home manufacture to such a degree as would bring ruin in its train: the very idea of its becoming known would most likely stagnate the manufacture for a considerable time; for when dangers are apprehended, they always operate with great force in an untried and new measure. It is obvious that, under the existing circumstances of the woollen manufacture of this kingdom, it will be impossible to compete with foreigners in this market, unless all taxes on articles used in the manufacture are so far removed as to put this country on a footing of reciprocity with the foreigner. Even then we should have to struggle with the higher price of subsistence here, and which it would be nearly impossible to equalise. As to an opinion on what protecting duty would be necessary, it would be a perilous task to give. On coarse goods hardly any duty that might admit foreign articles would answer; and in fine goods, it would require some practical experience of what the foreigner could and would offer in this market before a correct decision could be formed. If Mr. Huskisson wishes it, I shall be

most happy to consult a few of the principal manufacturers concerned in the superfine trade, which I do not think myself at liberty to do without permission.

"I am, &c.,

"EDWARD PHILLIPS."

Some days after Mr. Huskisson received these letters, Mr. Bischoff was desired to call upon him again, and Mr. Huskisson said, with respect to the corn laws, whatever opinion he, (Mr. H.,) entertained thereon, they formed a difficulty which it was impossible to surmount: but he was desirous of repealing or reducing taxes on articles used in our manufactures to a mere nominal rate, and then to lay such protecting duties on the importation of foreign manufactures for home consumption, as might be equivalent to the pressure of the corn laws. Mr. Huskisson, therefore, desired Mr. Bischoff to ascertain the opinion of the manufacturers thereon, and the following circular was sent to them:—

"London, March 8, 1825.

"My Dear Sir,

"I yesterday received another note from Mr. Huskisson, desiring me to call upon him. He expressed his wish to relieve the woollen trade as much as could be done, consistent with the public revenue, from taxes on raw materials, dyeing wares, &c. &c. &c., and desired me to send him a list of articles falling under that description. I shall, therefore, be obliged to you to state what articles are used by you. Having given this advantage to the manufacturer, and surrounded as the corn question is with difficulties, he would then consider what duty on the importation of foreign woollens would be sufficient to counterbalance the effects of the corn laws, and to give to the British manufacturer protection in the home market. I shall be obliged to you, therefore, to give me your reply to the questions at foot.

"I remain, &c.,

"JAMES BISCHOFF."

"Question 1.—What articles used in your manufactures are subject to duty on importation, or are raised in price by excise duty or restriction?

"Question 2.—What per centage will be considered sufficient protecting duty on the importation of foreign woollens for home consumption, in case those duties and restrictions should be removed, with the exception of the corn laws, and the proportionate expense incurred on the growth of teasles and

other products of the soil which are used in the woollen manufacture?"

The following answers may be interesting :—

LETTER FROM J. WORTHINGTON ESQ., TO MR. BISCHOFF.

"Leicester, 12th March, 1825.

"My Dear Sir,

"A literal compliance with the request contained in your last favour is next to impossible, since there is scarcely a production of nature which, in some form or other, the ingenuity of His Majesty's former Ministers has not contrived to render a subject of taxation. We are much gratified by the different views of the present Ministers, and heartily wish them success in their more liberal plans.

"I have fortunately been aided in this difficult undertaking of making a selection, by a gentleman who has long been in the habit of supplying the dyers and manufacturers of this town with dye wares, and articles connected therewith, who happened to be in Leicester at the time your letter was received, viz., Henry Skey, Esq., of Bewdley, Worcestershire, and to whom I beg to refer you as an intelligent correspondent, should any further information be wished on the subject of his communication. The memorandum which he has favoured me with I beg leave now to annex :—

(Memorandum by Henry Skey, Esq., &c.)

"That the import duties on the materials used in dyeing wool, &c., are injurious to the woollen manufactures in proportion to their amount, is obvious, and it may be clearly shown they are still more so from the erroneous principles on which they have been established. The French manufactures have long been celebrated for the excellence of their dyes, and it has been stated as being the effect of superior climate; this, though it may probably give them some advantage, is not the sole cause, as it may be more justly attributed to the protection and encouragement given to that branch of their trade by the French Government. Colbert, the minister under Louis XIV., paid particular attention to it, established certain regulations, divided the art of dyeing into two branches, namely, that of permanent colours, and that of false or fugitive colours, prohibiting the permanent dyer to dye any false colours whatever, or even to have any materials used in false dye in his possession. It is in the order of nature, that the materials which produce the brightest, richest, and most durable colours are among the less abundant of her productions, collected from every climate and every country in the world, and consequently are the most costly. Colbert, in order to encourage the permanent dye, took off all re-

strictions and duties then payable on the materials used by the permanent dyer, and continued the duties on the materials used in the fugitive dyes, and in some cases increased them. Under this system, the French brought the art of dyeing to higher perfection than any other European nation, of which the richness, brilliancy, and durability of the colours in their Gobelin tapestry, to be now seen of more than a century standing, is a manifest proof. That this superiority does not arise from climate alone, is evident, for since the peace, the English dyers have obtained knowledge of some of their processes, and have succeeded in obtaining some colours as rich, as brilliant, and as durable as the French, which heretofore the English dyers looked on with surprise and despair.

“ The duties imposed on these materials by the English Government, from the earliest period of our commerce, have been established on the opposite principle, loading all the materials of the permanent dye with duties more or less onerous ; and it was only under the necessities of the late war that the materials of the fugitive dyes were chargeable with any duty. If the English dyer obtained his materials on equal terms with the French, there is no doubt but his colours would be equal in every degree, and all abatement of duties are an approximation to that point.

“ The articles used in the permanent dyes are chiefly cochineal, madder, indigo, annatto, galls, rock moss, and safflower, to which may be added lac dye.

“ The fugitive, or false dyes are logwood, fustic, Nicaragua wood, Brazil wood, bar wood, sanders, orchella weeds, &c.

“ The largest quantity of woollen goods are dyed with fugitive dyes ; a relief in the duties will of course render them cheaper, though the rates of the duty on articles used in permanent dyes are less in proportion to their intrinsic value. The removal of those duties will be conducive to a greater perfection in the dye of our woollens of finer fabrics. There is an anomaly in the rating of these duties on the Brazil and Nicaragua woods. Brazil wood is a rarer production of nature than other dye woods, and always of high price, and is rated at twenty per cent. on its value ; it has been very scarce, and very high in price, and Nicaragua wood has been substituted, which pays a light duty, and is very inferior in richness and durability to that of Brazil wood, and has been a great disadvantage to some of our woollen manufactures. There are two articles, consumed by the dyers, of importance in the woollen trade,—argols, and cream of tartar, both productions of wine countries, which must be much cheaper to the continental dyers than to English : the duties on these articles increase that disadvantage.

The article of sulphur in the native and refined state, is largely used in bleaching wool and woollen goods, the duty on which is £15 per ton, being 150 per cent. on its intrinsic value. The cotton and linen bleachers also use sulphur, but under the modification of oil of vitriol, in the making of which the sulphur used therein is allowed drawback of the whole of this high duty; but the woollen manufacturer pays this duty on all he consumes.'

"In addition to the enumeration of Mr. Skey, we beg leave to mention the following, viz.:—

"The remaining duty on soap, which the drawback does not cover.

"The duty on rape and olive oil, pot and pearl ashes, Barilla, paper, (the consumption of which is very considerable in the hosiery business, arising from inclosing every half-dozen pairs in a separate paper,) wool stamps, postage, &c.

"I am, &c. &c.,

"J. WORTHINGTON, Jun."

Mr. Worthington gave no opinion with regard to the protecting duty which might be then considered necessary; but the reply from others varied from twenty to thirty per cent. on the importation of foreign woollen manufactures.

The following letter was sent to Mr. Huskisson:—

LETTER FROM MR. JAMES BISCHOFF TO THE RIGHT HON.
WILLIAM HUSKISSON, &c.

"Basinghall Street, 15th March, 1825.

"SIR,

"I have the honour to transmit to you letters which I have received in answer to the two inquiries,—

"1. What articles used in their manufactures are subject to duty on importation, or are raised in price by export duty or restriction?

"2. What per centage will be considered sufficient protecting duty against the importation of foreign woollens for home consumption, in case those duties and restrictions should be removed, with the exception of the corn laws, and the proportionate expense incurred on the growth of teasles, and other products of the soil, which are used in the woollen manufacture?

"From Mr. Sheppard, Uley; Mr. Gott, Leeds; Mr. Radcliffe, Saddleworth; Mr. Fawcett, Bradford, (Yorkshire); Mr. Worthington, Leicester; Mr. Gandy, Kendal; Mr. Broom, Kidderminster;

Mr. Stables, Huddersfield; Mr. Phillips, Melksham, (Wilts); the Trustees of the Cloth Halls, Leeds; Mr. Grundy, Bury, Lancashire.*

“ I also send, at your desire, a general list of articles used in the woollen manufacture, the price of which is advanced either by direct taxes, or by restriction; and having consulted Mr. Thomas Sheppard, Mr. Bond, Mr. Webb, Mr. Maclean, and Mr. Hughes, who are extensively interested in the woollen trade, I am desired to state, that whilst they are fully alive to the great advantages the foreign trade in woollens of British manufacture will derive from the proposed repeal of duties, and concur in approving the liberal, and, as they conceive, wise measures now in contemplation, and if placed upon the same footing as foreigners in the price of food, they would have no fear of meeting their manufacturers without duty,—they will require a high protecting duty on the importation of foreign woollens, so long as the present laws continue; and in case of alteration in those laws, will require a protecting duty equivalent to the protection which may at any time be given to the landed interest in the price of corn; and they conceive that twenty per cent. *ad valorem* is the lowest rate that, under the present circumstances, can be fixed, after the repeal of taxes and removal of restrictions, with exception of the corn laws.

“ I am also desired to say, that, in a matter of such vital importance to the woollen trade, the gentlemen I have mentioned wish their opinion to be considered as that of individuals.

“ If there is any other information which you think I can give, I shall be happy to wait upon you whenever you may appoint.

“ I remain, &c. &c.

“ JAMES BISCHOFF.”

“ To the Right Honourable William Huskisson,
President of the Board of Trade, &c. &c.”

OPINIONS AS TO PROTECTING DUTIES.

Huddersfield—Foreign cloth under 14s. per yard 10 per cent.

Ditto ditto above ditto 12½ ditto.

Gloucestershire and the West of England, 20 per cent.

Articles used in the woollen manufacture with duty now paid on importation :—

Argols, 4s. 9d. per cwt.

Cochineal—South America, 2s. 6d. per lb.

Ditto East Indies, 10d. per lb.

* Some of the letters last mentioned were not received at the date of this letter, but were sent on receipt to Mr. Huskisson, but it appears best to insert the names and places altogether.

Cream of tartar, 15s. 10d. per cwt.

Barwood, camwood, red sanders wood, 15s. per ton.

Nicaragua wood, 26s. 2d. per ton.

Fustic, 24s. per ton.

Logwood, 9s. 2d. per ton.

Indigo, 5d. per lb.

Lac, 10 per cent.

Madder roots, 5 per cent.

Olive oil—British ship, £15 13s.

Ditto Foreign, £16 13.

Sheep's wool, 1d. per lb.

Shumac, 1s. 7d. per cwt., &c. &c. &c.

Mr. Bischoff was desired to call again at the Board of Trade, and Mr. Huskisson, referring to every article used in the manufactures, fixed the lowest duty on importation which he thought he should be able to carry through Parliament, and in some instances he fixed a lower rate than he could accomplish, to one of which it is desirable particularly to allude, viz., olive oil. Mr. Bischoff gave his opinion, that if the duty on that article was reduced from £16 15s. to £4., more duty would be received than at the high rate of duty; and he grounded that opinion not only on the increased quantity which would be used in the manufacture of superfine cloth and cassimeres, but its use would be extended to the lower fabrics, and besides that, it would bring to this country the manufacture of fine soaps, which is chiefly carried on at Marseilles, as well as small places on the coast of Italy, and of which large quantities were exported to South America; and as England possessed alkalis, and could so easily obtain other articles used in that manufacture, its establishment here was prevented solely by the high duty imposed on olive oil. Mr. Huskisson, therefore, stated in Parliament his intention to propose the future duty at £4 per ton, but in consequence of the opposition raised by those concerned in the Greenland fisheries, and the agricultural interest, from the fear of interference with whale oil and rape oil, he was obliged to give way, and fixed eight guineas.

Having thus determined to lower the taxes on all these articles, Mr. Huskisson asked Mr. Bischoff's opinion as to the duty on the importation of foreign woollens as a protection

from the effect of the corn laws, and, after a long discussion, Mr. Huskisson determined that the duty should be fifteen per cent.

There can be no doubt but the great reduction then proposed in the duties on raw materials and dyeing wares, was *pro tanto* so much advantage given to merchants and manufacturers who supplied foreign markets; for if with the pressure of these heavy charges they could compete with the foreign manufacturer, they would be now much better enabled to do it; but still, in this arrangement it was admitted by Mr. Huskisson that the corn laws were a virtual taxation of fifteen per cent., and, in order to place the British manufacturer on a fair footing with his foreign rival in open markets, he ought to receive a return equivalent to that taxation, or fifteen per cent. on the amount of goods he exported, so long as these corn laws continued, it being of no consequence to the manufacturer whether the tax was imposed upon him for the purposes of raising revenue to the state, or for the advantage of the landowner, the pressure was the same; and it was so much bonus to the foreign manufacturer in every market where he met the British manufacturers, whether in foreign countries or in the bonding warehouses at home.

On the 26th March, 1825, on the motion of Mr. Huskisson, the House of Commons went into a Committee of the whole house on the Customs Consolidation Act.

Mr. HUSKISSON said,—"In requesting the attention of the committee to the removal, or at least to the modification of certain duties which are now paid on the importation of foreign articles employed in some of our most important manufactures, and also to the question of the rate of duties to protect and encourage our manufactures over the manufactures of foreign countries, upon the supposition that such duties are necessary, I trust the committee will extend its indulgence. I feel the more confident that there will exist a disposition of that sort in the committee, not only from the indulgence and kindness they have lately manifested, but also from the circumstance that we have now the benefit of experience to confirm, both in the feelings of this house, and in the feelings of the country, the advantages which may be expected from removing every unnecessary restriction, and from abstaining

as much as possible from all vexatious and meddling interference in the concerns of our internal industry and of our foreign commerce. However confident either my Right Honourable friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Robinson) or I myself may have been, that the measures which from time to time we have found it our duty to bring forward, since the restoration of peace, with a view to a change in the commercial policy of this country, would be attended with the most salutary consequences, it was impossible for us not to feel,—at least I may say for myself,—it was impossible for me not to feel, that in the application of principles which I knew were just and true in themselves, there might arise circumstances to defeat those just expectations. It became us, therefore, to watch the progress of the experiments we were about to make, to proceed gradually and with circumspection, to feel our way, and to be satisfied of the result, before we called on the public to proceed further with us in the career in which we had embarked; but I feel now bold to say, that in every instance that has hitherto occurred, without one exception, the fears or the forebodings of those local particular interests opposed to us, and of those individuals who made objections in this house, have not only proved ill-founded, but have proved altogether visionary; and I think I may add, that the expectations of those who supported such measures have, in every instance, been more than realised. I am sure this satisfactory result must at least be a consolation to those who opposed these measures; they must feel relieved that their arguments did not convince us, that their admonitions did not persuade us, that we were not alarmed by their predictions, or terrified by their prophecies: and on the other hand those who supported the measures will, I trust, be more disposed to give us countenance while we go forward, in the expectation, that, by following the same course, we shall further advance the public interests. The committee will recollect, that when in the last session of Parliament a total change was proposed in the laws and in the system which had hitherto governed the silk trade and manufacture of this country, it was suggested, that instead of an absolute prohibition upon the importation of all articles of manufactured silk goods, a duty should be imposed

of thirty per cent. according to the value. I well recollect some gentlemen stated that a duty of thirty per cent. might possibly prove too high, —certainly not too high in the feelings of the manufacturer, but in his fears and calculations, even a protection to that amount, it was thought, would be quite inadequate, —and too high in another sense in which I a little participated, that it would still leave considerable latitude to the smugglers. In the latter apprehension I think there is still some ground for doubt; but in respect of the fears of the manufacturers, I hope by this time they have altogether subsided. Sure I am, that if there exist any ground for alarm now, it is transferred from the manufacturers of this country to the French manufacturers, who have hitherto been their rivals; for I well know that in that country there does exist at this moment a very considerable degree of apprehension and uneasiness at the great progress which the trade and manufacture of silk has already made in this country, and the great improvements which are now taking place. If it were thought that 30 per cent. upon the importation of silk manufactured goods was the highest rate of duty which could possibly be sustained upon the only branch of manufacture, as it appears to me, in which we were considerably behind-hand in respect to the manufactures of other countries, both in preparing the raw material, spinning, weaving, and the manufacture of the goods themselves,—if 30 per cent. was judged sufficient in respect to that branch of manufacture, it became us to consider, in respect of other manufactures which have long thriven and prospered with us, whether it was necessary to maintain duties either altogether prohibitory, or the effect of which is such that they tend to check whatever trade is carried on in those articles, and to increase the business of the smuggler, in the place of the business of the legitimate merchant of the country. To point out to the committee what I mean in reference to manufactures generally, (always requesting them to bear in mind that this maximum of 30 per cent. is the only instance in which we are labouring under a disadvantage,) I will call their attention to the duties established for the protection of that branch of manufacture, the greatest and most extensive of them all,—the cotton manufacture."

After entering fully into the details of the cotton trade and manufacture, which it is unnecessary to insert here, Mr. Huskisson commenced his observations on the wool and woollen trade and manufacture :—

“ I proceed next to the other great branch and staple of our country—I mean the woollen manufacture. This is the oldest staple in this country, and its manufacturers have been fondled and favoured and cherished to a peculiar degree. They were a sort of favourite children with the legislature. Like other favourite children, too, they were spoiled by being petted and favoured. The cotton manufacture, a younger child, having in some degree been left to itself, has thriven more, and acquired a more vigorous constitution. If I could show what laws were made and maintained for centuries to protect our woollen manufactures, I should fully satisfy the committee of the extent to which this mischievous policy was carried. I wish, indeed, there were means of making this exposure of the law, because, without it, posterity will never be satisfied of the extent of the evil which such legislation creates. Within my memory, more than one hundred statutes for the protection of this branch have been repealed. All who dealt in this manufacture were obliged to attend to the most minute legislative regulations. Some statutes regulated the clipping of sheep, some the packing of wool, some the mode of transferring it from one place to another. All regulations were most precise, and the violations of them were subject to penalties, some amounting to felony. This was most injurious to the manufacture. Most of these laws are now swept away.

“ The duty upon all woollen cloths imported into this country is now fifty per cent. We are great exporters of woollen cloths, and in every foreign market maintain a successful competition. Under these circumstances, I propose to the committee, and indeed we are clearly called upon, to revise this high protecting duty. Upon a full consideration of every fact and circumstance connected with the question, I see a necessity to reduce the duty of fifty per cent. to fifteen per cent. This branch of our manufactures, as well as the manufacture of silk, has been too much interfered with by ill-advised legislative protection. That is the reason that

the cotton manufacture has risen more than other manufactures. I will, in order to illustrate this further, and show the influence of such interference, state, from an official document, the amount of cotton and wool imported, and the value of the exported manufactures both of cotton and woollen cloths, at two different periods, viz., 1766, and the present year, 1825, extending over a period of sixty years :—

COTTON.

1766 Cotton imported	3,359,000 lbs.
1825 Do. do.	150,000,000 lbs.
1766 Cotton goods exported...	£200,000
1825 Do. do. ...	£30,795,000

WOOL AND WOOLLENS.

1766 Sheep's wool imported...	1,926,000 lbs.
1825 Do. do. ...	23,828,000 lbs.
1766 Woollens exported	£5,559,000
1825 Do. do.	£6,926,000

“ It will not be denied that in 1765 the quantity of wool, the growth of this country, was not so great as at present. Great improvements have since that time been made in husbandry, and, by providing winter food for sheep, their number is greatly increased. To the quantity of wool produced at home, was added little less than 2,000,000 lbs., imported from abroad. The value of exported cloth from this aggregate quantity was, in 1765, not less than £5,559,000. The quantity of wool produced at home was last year far greater than that of 1765, and the quantity imported, instead of being 2,000,000 lbs., was 24,000,000 lbs. Yet the exported woollens amounted in value to £6,926,000, being an increase of only £1,371,000 in sixty years, while such increase has taken place in the consumption at home, both of home and foreign wool manufactured. The committee ought to recollect, at the same time, what great changes have taken place in the consumption at home, both of cotton and silk. In 1765, the cotton consumption was small; now, it exceeds the woollen consumption in point of value. It is impossible not to see that the power of consumption has greatly increased in silk, cotton, and woollen cloths. I desire to draw the same conclusion from this as I did from other statements. It is always in proportion to the increase of our means that

our wants increase, and by giving the utmost freedom to trade, we invariably increase our means, the foundation of public prosperity.

“ Having stated the alterations I propose to make in our prohibitive system, perhaps it is necessary, in order to afford encouragement to our manufacturers, and enable them to enter into the competition which I anticipate in foreign markets, to consider how far we may reduce some duties which might interfere with that successful competition,—I mean the duties on raw materials. During the exigencies of the war, contrary to the policy of antecedent times, it was thought necessary to lay certain duties,—or at least, whether necessary or not, they were laid,—on raw materials used in the manufacture of certain articles. Amongst these, for instance, are some articles used in dyeing. They are various, and the amount of the duties derived from them inconsiderable. If, however, those duties operated only at the rate of one or two per cent. on the manufactured articles, it might prevent an open competition in the foreign market, and may thus operate to the disadvantage of the manufactures. When we are taking measures which may excite some alarm among the manufacturers, I am anxious, in the other measures which I propose for adoption, to afford them all the encouragement possible. I propose, therefore, to reduce the duties on most of these articles. They are so numerous that it would be tedious to specify them, but they will be found in the schedule which forms part of the resolutions which I have to propose. There is one article, olive oil, which is used in the manufacture of woollen cloth, and the duty on this I mean to reduce even lower than it was at the commencement of the war. This would be a relief to the woollen manufacturers, and would leave them in a better situation than the manufacturers of other countries in meeting them in the same market. There is another oil made from rapeseed, also used in the coarse woollen manufacture, and upon this a duty was imposed during one of the most severe moments of agricultural distress, for the relief of the landed interest, but which was no relief, as I anticipated. By this measure a heavy duty was imposed upon rape and flax seed, which considerably increased the prices. But this was not the only injury produced by the prohibition.

It also destroyed the manufacture of oil from rape seed, and the nominal duty on the cake made from rape was reduced. Still the prohibition prevented the manufacturers from getting the raw material from abroad, and the farmer from getting the cake at home. In proposing to revert to our ancient policy, and after allowing a certain time to dispose of the stock on hand, I propose to allow the manufacturers to make the oil, and to supply the farmer with cake at home free from restriction."

EXTRACTS FROM THE SCHEDULE.
WOOLLENS.

Present Duty.	Proposed Duty.
Carpets, Turkey, under 4 yards square, ..... ..£1 10	15 per cent.
4 yards and not exceeding 6 yards square, 5 10	
Exceeding 6 yards square, 8 15	
Of Persia, the square yard 2 10	
Others 50 per cent.	
Stockings 50 per cent.	
Stuffs 50 per cent.	
Stuffs, East India... £67 10 do.	
Tapes and tapestry 50 per cent.	
Yarn 1s. 7d. pr lb. }	
Ashes, pot & pearl, £0 14s. per cwt.	6s. 0d. per cwt.
Brimstone, rough, 0 15s. do.	1s. 0d. do.
Do. roll, 1 0s. do.	6s. 0d. do.
Do. flour, 1 3s. do.	9s. 3d. do.
Oil of olives,..... 15 13s. per tun.	£7 0s. 0d. per tun.
Rapeseed 10 0s. per last.	10s. 0d. per last.
Wool worth 1s. pr lb. 1d. per lb.	0½d. per lb.
Argols 4s. 9d. per cwt.	2s. 0d. per cwt.
Cochineal 2s. 0d. per lb.	1s. 0d. per lb.
Fustic 24s. 6d. per ton.	4s. 0d. per ton.
Indigo 5d. per lb.	4d. per lb.
Logwood 9s. 2d. per ton.	4s. 6d. per ton.
Madder 12s. 0d. per cwt.	6s. 0d. per cwt.
Madder roots ... 5s. 0d. per cwt.	2s. 6d. do.
Orchel 16s. 8d. per cwt.	6s. 0d. do.
Ochre 16s. 8d. per cwt.	6s. 0d. do.
Shumac 1s. 7d. per cwt.	1s. 0d. do.
Turnsol 10s. 0d. per cwt.	5s. 0d. do.
Verdigris, common 3s. 4d. per cwt.	1s. 0d. do.
Do. chrystalised 6s. 6d. per cwt.	2s. 0d. do.

The measures thus brought forward by Mr. Huskisson, though opposed by some who thought their interests might be injured, were carried by a very large majority, and thus the manufactures of the country were placed upon a sound footing, and the only point in which Mr. Huskisson was obliged to give way was in his intended reduction of the duty on olive oil, which he proposed should be £4, but which he afterwards fixed at £7. Thus the foundation was laid, by the removal of restriction and giving facilities to trade, for the extension of the exportation of our manufactures, by enabling us to meet the competition of continental manufactures; and thus, by his unwearied attention to the trade of the country, and by the firmness with which, in spite of opposition, he carried forward his measures, Mr. Huskisson became the best commercial statesman England ever knew. By his ardent search for information, and his attention to the real interests of commerce, he established a name which will be long remembered by all who justly estimate his merits.

CHAPTER IV.

FROM 1827 TO 1828.

Dissatisfaction of Wool Growers—Questions proposed at the Board of Trade—Prices of Wool—Stocks of Wool—Foreign Cloth Imported—Letter from Mr. James Bischoff to Mr. Huskisson—Prices of Wool, Cotton, Flax—Motion in the House of Commons for the Renewal of the Tax on Wool—Mr. James Bischoff summoned to the Board of Trade—Circular to the Manufacturers—Petitions of Wool Growers—Petitions from London and Manufacturing Districts—Debate in the Commons—Lord Milton's Speech—Mr. James Bischoff's Correspondence with Lord Wharncliffe—Mr. James Bischoff summoned to the Privy Council—Examined by the Duke of Wellington—A Committee of the House of Lords determined upon—The Duke of Wellington's Declaration in the House of Lords—Discussion in the House of Lords—Evidence to be prepared by Manufacturers—Proposed Meeting of the Duke of Richmond and other Leaders of Agriculturists, with the Manufacturers, before the Privy Council, as to the advantages, or otherwise, of a Committee of Inquiry in the Lords—The Meeting declined by the Agriculturists.

THE laws respecting the woollen and wool trades having been so established in the year 1825, nothing was done in Parliament in either the year 1826 or 1827 to disturb them; but from the dissatisfaction apparent amongst the leading agriculturists, it became very evident, towards the close of 1827, that another session would not be allowed to pass over without some attempt to renew the tax on the importation of foreign wool.

In November, 1827, the compiler of this work was requested to send to the Board of Trade answers to the following inquiries:—

Question 1.—Foreign Wool.—What proportion is there between the present prices of such wool in this market, and the prices the same quality bore in the early part of the year 1825?

Answer.—The proportionate price varies considerably in

reference to quality ; the finest and the lowest German wools have maintained their price better than the intermediate qualities. The following table may best answer the question :—

		1824.				1825.				1826.				1827.			
		s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Saxon Wool—																	
Super ...	8	0 to 9	0	8	0 to 8	9	6	0 to 7	0	6	0 to 7	6	6	0 to 7	6		
Electoral.	5	3 to 7	0	7	0 to 7	6	5	0 to 6	0	5	0 to 6	0	5	0 to 6	0		
Prime ...	4	0 to 4	6	4	0 to 4	9	3	0 to 3	6	3	0 to 3	6	3	0 to 3	6		
Othersorts	2	0 to 2	3	2	6 to 3	6	1	6 to 2	6	1	4 to 2	4	1	4 to 2	4		
Spanish Leonesa	3	6 to 4	6	3	9 to 4	9	2	9 to 3	6	2	4 to 3	0	2	4 to 3	0		
Segovia...	2	9 to 3	2	2	9 to 3	3	2	0 to 2	6	1	8 to 1	10	1	8 to 1	10		
Soria.....	—	—	—	2	6 to 3	4	1	6 to 2	0	1	4 to 1	6	1	4 to 1	6		
Seville ...	1	8 to 2	3	1	6 to 2	0	1	4 to 1	8	1	3 to 1	6	1	3 to 1	6		
English Sussex																	
fleece	1	3 to 0	0	0	11 to 0	0	0	11 to 0	0	0	11 to 0	0	0	11 to 0	0		
Kent, per tod	35	0 to 0	0	40	0 to 0	0	21	0 to 0	0	24	6 to 0	0					

The result in German wool will average, comparing the present time with 1825,—fine and low wool are ten to twenty per cent. lower, middle wools thirty to forty per cent. lower.

Question 2.—Is the stock in this country larger or less, or only equal to what has been usually held at former periods?

Answer.—The stock of German Wool at present is considered at least one-third more than this time last year; but compared with the spring of 1825, about one-third less: fine stock small; fine middle, considerable; middle, large; low, small.

Question 3.—Is it supposed that a large stock of wool has accumulated in the hands of the Continental breeders of sheep, or in the hands of the Continental merchants?

Answer.—It is considered that the flocks have increased, but that the stock of old wool in the merchants' hands, and with the grower, is small: the clip of 1827 is large.

Question 4.—Is the consumption in this country such as to give ground to expect that the stock will be reduced, and the price of wool raised?

Answer.—There is no reason to expect any rise in price, but rather a decline, the supply of German wool being quite equal to the demand, though the manufacturers are well employed, and the demand increasing.

Question 5.—Is the importation of coarse cloth from Germany an increasing business, and can they be made there sufficiently cheap to afford to pay the additional *ad valorem*

duty of fifteen per cent., which is now imposed on them in this country?

Answer.—The importation of coarse foreign cloth has altogether ceased, both as respects transit under the warehousing act, and for home consumption. The manufacture of coarse cloth in Germany is very far from being in the improved state that it is here. The wool used in making cloth at 2s. to 3s. per yard is of a finer and softer quality than what is used in England, but in every process of manufacture,—spinning, weaving, dyeing and finishing,—they are so inferior to the English manufacturer, that our woollens, though made of coarser wool, are preferred to foreign. The German, or rather the Polish cloth, cannot, moreover, be depended upon for honesty, in either the breadth or the length of the cloth. Without much improvement in the manufacture, and confidence in the manufacturer, few or any foreign woollen cloths will be imported at the present duty, or pass in transit to other markets.

The session of Parliament of 1827 passed without any attempt to interfere with the wool and woollen trades, but the agricultural interest was not idle in making preparations, and it was very evident that the year 1828 would not pass without some great exertions to renew the tax on foreign wool. Mr. Huskisson had then been appointed Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Charles Grant was President, and Mr. Frankland Lewis Vice President of the Board of Trade. Having, however, had so much communication upon this subject, with Mr. Huskisson, the compiler of these Memoirs wrote the following letter to him:—

“London, 6th March, 1828.

“SIR,

“It being generally understood that a proposal will be made in Parliament, by some leading member of the landed interest, to renew a tax on the importation of foreign wool, I trust you will excuse me troubling you upon that subject.

“The great, and I should think unanswerable argument against that tax, is the present liberal system of trade, the advantages of which are confirmed by the returns made to Parliament, and by the sound and prosperous state of the commercial classes in the country in every branch. These prove the advantages which have accrued, but do not show what the country would have lost if there

had not been statesmen who knew what was going forward in other countries, and, looking beyond the present day, had the firmness and perseverance to place our manufacturers in a situation to meet competition. Upon this point I shall not dwell; you have facts to produce on the increase and prosperity of our manufactures which cannot be resisted. My object is to confine myself to the woollen trade; and first, to answer the assertions of the agriculturists as to the reduced price of English wool, arising, as they contend, from the overwhelming importation of foreign wool. I hope to show that it has not only not fallen in the same proportion as other raw materials used in manufactures, but that, so far from having been reduced in price by the importation of foreign wool, the demand for English wool has been maintained notwithstanding the importation of low priced foreign wool.

"For this purpose I inclose a table of the prices of wool, cotton, and flax, with observations arising therefrom.

PRICES OF FOREIGN AND ENGLISH WOOLS, COTTON, AND FLAX.

Wool.	1817	1818	1819	1820	1821	1822	1823	1824	1825	1826	1827.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Electoral,	8 6	8 9	8 2	7 10	7 0	6 9	6 9	6 9	6 6	5 6	5 6
Prime	7 4	7 10	7 2	6 0	5 0	4 9	4 9	4 3	4 6	3 3	3 2
Leopessa	6 6	6 6	6 0	4 0	4 3	4 3	4 3	4 0	4 3	3 2	2 8
Extremadura	4 3	3 6	3 0	2 6	2 6	2 3	2 6	2 0	1 9	1 6	1 3
South Down	1 7	2 6	1 4	1 3	1 3	1 3	1 3	1 3	1 1	0 11	0 10
Kent, per tod,	34 0	40 0	28 0	36 0	30 0	28 0	28 0	35 0	40 0	21 0	23 0
Cotton Fernam,	1 11	2 0	1 7	1 4	1 04	0 114	0 104	0 11	1 9	0 10	0 84
Upland	1 31	1 7	1 04	0 114	0 94	0 9	0 74	0 8	1 5	0 64	0 6
Surat	1 31	1 24	0 8	0 74	0 7	0 64	0 54	0 61	0 11	0 54	0 44
Flax, per Cwt.	53 0	69	6 71	0 52	6 52	6 151	0 54	0 48	0 41	0 23	0 36 5

"I have made the table to show that English wool has not fallen in price in the same ratio as either low foreign wool or other raw materials, and that the imposition of the tax did not improve the price: South Down wool has, however, fallen since the commencement of the tax, or rather the commencement of this year, being now 9d. per lb. Another observation arises from this table, that the coarsest raw materials have fallen in price much more in proportion than finer. The inference which may be deduced from that fact is, that the country is in a more wholesome and prosperous state, and whether the labouring classes have more money to spend, or spend the same money they used to do, they unconsciously get a better article, and are better clothed than formerly. With respect, however, to wool, I ought to add, that the South Down and merino wool has much deteriorated in quality. You will find upon inquiring, that the fleeces in Norfolk and Wiltshire, as well as other districts, have increased in weight about one quarter, and with the increase of weight the quality is inferior in the same ratio: the fall of price has not, therefore, arisen from want of demand.

Since that table was made, a most important document has been printed by order of the House of Commons, viz., the quantity of wool imported in each year betwixt 1819 and 1828: these being computed to the 5th January, correspond with my table from 1818 to 1827. The tax was imposed in 1818, and reduced in 1823, in the autumn of each year, when the charge was made, and therefore affected the market in the following year as stated in the table.

The average annual importation in three years, 1822-1824, during the imposition of the tax on wool	18,361,218 lbs.
And in 1826-1828, since the tax was reduced	29,658,980 lbs.

notwithstanding the panic of 1826 and 1827. The advantage to the manufacturer is evident; and with respect to the alleged injury to the farmer, it can be proved beyond the possibility of doubt, that the demand for English wool, which has prevented it from falling in price in the same ratio as low foreign wool, has arisen from its mixture in the manufacture of cloth with low Spanish wool, principally for the East India and China trade, which cloth would have been sent from Germany, if the reduction of the tax had not allowed the importation of low foreign wool: cloth made solely from English wool could not have found a market abroad, and as the gentlemen connected with the landed interest will not clothe their menial servants with the produce of their own flocks, they could not expect their neighbours and dependants to use it.

"I ought to apologise for troubling you with this long letter, but not having had any communication with the Board of Trade since you ceased to be the President thereof, I have no reason to suppose my name is known to the present President and Vice-President.

"I have the honour to be, &c.,

"JAMES BISCHOFF."

"To the Right Honourable William Huskisson, &c. &c."

Mr. Burrell, the member for Sussex, having given notice in the House of Commons of a motion for the renewal of the tax on foreign wool, the compiler of this work received a note, desiring him to call upon Mr. Charles Grant, the President of the Board of Trade, and met him there, as well as Mr. Frankland Lewis, the Vice-President. They informed Mr. Bischoff that the landed interest were making very great

exertions to obtain the renewal of the tax on foreign wool. He asked what steps Government intended to take, and was answered that Government had nothing to do with it; they must look on, and see what would be best for all parties. He stated in reply, that Government had adopted a liberal system of trade by the reduction of duties, by the warehousing act, and other measures, and the manufacturers felt confident that the same system would be pursued, and had acted upon that conviction; and if Government consented to, or did not even oppose the imposition of taxes on raw materials used in manufactures, they would thereby act directly opposite to the system so introduced.

Considering it necessary that the manufacturers should know what was in contemplation, the following circular was sent:—

“London, 21st April, 1828.

“DEAR SIR,

“I was desired to call at the Board of Trade at one o'clock, and am just returned from thence. Great exertions are making by the agricultural interest to renew the tax on foreign wool, and I am quite sure that it is necessary for the merchants, woolstaplers, and manufacturers to lose no time in sending petitions to both Houses of Parliament, and to make every exertion to resist the imposition of that tax, in case they think it will be injurious to them.

“I ventured to say that a most severe blow was given to the woollen trade by the late tax, from which it has not yet recovered, and a renewal of that tax would be highly injurious without in the least degree improving the price of English wool.

“I am, &c., &c.,

“JAMES BISCHOFF.”

“You are aware that Mr. Burrell's motion in the House of Commons is fixed for the 28th inst.”

Mr. Bischoff called upon Mr. Sheppard and Mr. Austin the next morning, and told them, that, being no longer directly interested in the woollen trade, it would be better for Mr. Sheppard to be the chairman, and Mr. B. promised every assistance in his power. At the desire of those gentlemen, Mr. Bischoff drew up the subjoined petition, which was presented to the House of Commons by Mr. Ward, and which is inserted after the following petition from the agriculturists:—

"To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament, assembled.

"The petition of the undersigned noble, and the humble petition of other owners and occupiers of South Down farms,

"SHEWETH,—

"That in consequence of the immense import of foreign wool at a mere nominal duty, South Down wool has been, and is now, almost unsaleable at any price; that the loss to the flock masters in the South Downs, occasioned by this unlimited import of wool, is not confined merely to the annual difference in the sale of wool, but extends to their sheep and lambs annually sold to be fattened elsewhere; that the public are not benefited by this diminution in value, as the price of meat will not be lowered thereby, and thus a most serious annual loss falls on the owners and occupiers of South Down farms, and none but the growers of wool abroad receive any benefit; that it has been proved beyond all doubt, by papers laid before Parliament, that not only has our export of woollen goods not increased since the reduction of the duty on wool, in proportion to the increased import of the raw material, but that, on the contrary, while the import of foreign wool has been doubled, the export of woollen goods has considerably decreased; that we have always heard and believed that the real wealth of a country consists, in the first place, of the quantity and value of its produce, and secondly, of the industry and spirit of its inhabitants; and that those branches of industry which combine the first production of the raw material with its subsequent preparation for home consumption and exportation, ought to be considered as its best, its staple, and we may almost say its natural manufacture; and that it is upon this ground that the woollen business has been for several ages and generations called the staple manufacture and trade of England; that competition is of great use for the improvement of all branches of industry; but when the effect of its injudicious application is to give to one party an advantage against which it is impossible for the other to contend, it defeats its own object; and if the party to whom the advantage is given, is of a foreign country, and the sufferer is of our own, it appears to us that such an act of legislation is as unwise as it is injurious; that not more than fifteen years ago the growth of fine wool in the north of Germany was so small as to be hardly known to the rest of Europe, and that within this short period, under the fostering care of a prudent government, it has increased to such a degree that it is now one of the principal sources of wealth and commerce in those districts where it is encouraged; that under the

protection and example of our late lamented Sovereign, the improvement of our short wool was carried on with great spirit and success, but that now, by the act of the Legislature giving an entry to foreign wool in such immense quantities, nearly duty free, that spirit of improvement is totally destroyed, and the only question now among farmers is, not what may be the fineness, or the value, or the price of short wool, but whether it may be possible to get rid of it at any price; that without any invidious feeling towards the manufacturers, it cannot but occur to our minds that they have an interest in preferring the purchase of foreign wool to British of the same value and price, because as long as they can supply their wants from abroad they have the British wool kept for them (like bonded corn), overloading the barns and outhouses of the farmers, to be called for whenever their convenience or necessity may require it; and this reserve amounts at the present moment to the growth of from two to three, and in many instances even four years' clip, while the liberty of exportation given to them as a compensation is a mere illusion, and can afford no relief; that we trust the importance of the subject to your petitioners will ensure to it the earliest attention of your Honourable House; and that if it should be made clear to your Honourable House that no other plan of checking the enormous import of foreign wool, and thus restoring South Down wool to its natural value, can be adopted, except the imposition of a duty on import, that such duty may be imposed to take place immediately, and not, as in 1819, to take effect only till after a given period, thereby offering an additional inducement to import, and thus lowering still more the (at present) ruinously low prices of South Down wool.

“And your petitioners will ever pray.”

“To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

“The humble petition of the undersigned merchants and others, resident in London, engaged in the woollen trade, and in the exportation of British woollen manufactures to foreign countries :—

“SHEWETH,

“That your petitioners have heard with sorrow and alarm that a member of your Honourable House has given notice of his intention to move certain resolutions in your Honourable House on the subject of the wool and woollen trades; and your petitioners have heard and believe, that the object and intention of that honourable member is to propose to your Honourable House an

increase on the tax imposed on the importation of foreign wool, expecting from such a measure that the price of wool grown in the United Kingdom will be advanced.

"That your petitioners are of opinion that such a tax would be highly injurious to the interests of themselves and others embarked in the woollen trade, and they beg leave respectfully to refer your Honourable House to the proceedings of Parliament during the last few years in confirmation of that opinion.

"Your Honourable House will find from returns presented to and by order from your Honourable House, that before the year 1819 the tax on the importation of foreign wool did not exceed one penny per pound, and in the four preceding years, namely, the years 1816 to 1819 inclusive, the average exportation of cloth amounted to 542,940 pieces annually; that in the year 1819 a tax of sixpence per pound was imposed on the importation of foreign wool, and that in the four years which followed, namely, in the years 1820 to 1823 inclusive, the exportation of cloth amounted to only 389,348 pieces, thereby, in that short period, reducing that branch of trade 153,592 pieces of cloth annually, or considerably more than one-fourth of the exports of that article.

"Your Honourable House in the year 1823 passed another law, permitting the free transit through this country of foreign woollen cloths, and other articles manufactured abroad; and though your petitioners admitted the wisdom of that measure, where countries are alike circumstanced in taxation and wages, they petitioned your Honourable House not to pass that law till the tax of sixpence per pound was reduced on foreign wool.

"The consequence of that measure was what your petitioners anticipated.

"The tax imposed on the importation of foreign wool had thrown upon the hands of farmers abroad a quality and description of wool which had before found a market in this country, and the tax encouraged and fostered, and in some districts formed new manufacturing establishments abroad, the competition of which was severely felt by your petitioners in the markets, not only of Europe, but distant parts of the globe, which formerly got their principal supplies of woollens from England: cloths of foreign fabrics were sent to the bonded warehouses in London upon an extensive and rapidly increasing scale, and sold at lower prices than cloths of the same quality could be manufactured here.

"Your Honourable House, seeing the consequences of this measure, and looking to the great distress which thereby had resulted in the districts of this country employed in the woollen trade, did in the following year, namely, 1824, reduce the duty on

wool from sixpence to one penny per pound; and though your petitioners believed that a most severe check had been given to the woollen manufacture by the tax on wool, they hoped and expected that by the reduction of that tax they would gradually get back the trade which had left this country.

"The consequences are beginning to show that their expectations are likely to be accomplished, and they feel assured the exportations of cloth will continue to increase, and the woollen trade further prosper, if not encumbered with any additional tax, though suffering severely from the pressure of the Corn Laws, and the consequent high price of food, as compared with foreign countries.

"Your petitioners could equally show that the price of English wool (as they anticipated) was not improved by the additional tax on foreign wool, but on the contrary declined.

"Your petitioners believe that the price of English wool will not be improved by the proposed tax on foreign wool, but only by the prosperous state of the woollen manufacture, and a consequent demand for wool.

"Your petitioners believe that during the four years preceding the tax, namely, 1816 to 1819 inclusive, the price of South Down wool was twenty-pence per lb., and in the following years during the tax, namely, 1820 to 1823 inclusive, the price was fifteen-pence per lb. Your petitioners admit that the price of South Down wool is now considerably lower, yet they do not attribute that depreciation to the reduction of the tax on wool, but to deterioration of quality, and to circumstances well known to the members of your Honourable House, which have equally reduced the price of various raw materials, as cotton, flax, silk, and indeed every article of produce and merchandise, with the exception of corn and other descriptions of food in this country, which, unlike wool, find their total consumption at home, and do not depend upon foreign demand for the sale and price, and of which the landowners of the United Kingdom possess the entire monopoly.

"Your petitioners also beg leave to represent, that an increased duty on the importation of the raw material used in manufacture, will be totally at variance with, and in opposition to the liberal system so lately, and, as your petitioners believe, so beneficially introduced into the commerce of the United Kingdom.

"Your petitioners, having endeavoured to state their case in a clear and precise manner, humbly and earnestly, but most respectfully pray your Honourable House, that your Honourable House will not consent to any increase on the tax on foreign wool, and will not appoint a committee of your Honourable House to inquire

into the subject, which would cause great confusion and alarm in the manufacturing districts, but that your Honourable House will allow the laws as respect wool and woollens to remain as they are. And your petitioners hope and believe, that under those laws your Honourable House will see the trade increase and prosper, and with its prosperity the price of English wool maintained and improved.

“ And your petitioners will ever pray.”

Petitions in support of that from London were sent from all the manufacturing districts. The following petition from the merchants, manufacturers, woolstaplers, and others of the town and neighbourhood of Leeds, is so much to the point, and so very similar to other petitions, that it may be well to insert it.

“ SHEWETH,

“ That your petitioners learn with the greatest alarm, that it is intended to propose to your Honourable House a further duty on the importation of foreign wool.

“ That they had hoped the disastrous effects of the late additional duty, without any corresponding benefit to the home grower, would have prevented a recurrence to a measure, the very suggestion of which in your Honourable House causes the deepest anxiety throughout the whole woollen manufacturing districts of this country, now gradually recovering from the sad consequences of that impost.

“ That your petitioners, and a large population around them, are almost exclusively dependant on the supply of foreign wool for their support, the employment of their works, and the capital invested therein : the English farmer affording them no substitute.

“ That the effect, therefore, of an additional impost, though most disastrous to your petitioners, would in no wise tend to raise the price of the wool produced at home, from which, indeed, the foreign wool they consume differs so materially, as to form, in a great measure, a distinct branch of manufacture.

“ That the foreign woollen manufacturers, under the protection and fostering care of their respective governments, are already most formidable competitors to those of this country.

“ Your petitioners, therefore, humbly pray, that your Honourable House will not, by any additional duty, deprive them of a material which is so essential to their existence.”

The above petition was adopted at a public meeting of the

inhabitants of Leeds, called by the mayor, and at which he presided, and resolutions were carried in order to give support to that petition, and to a similar petition to be presented to the House of Lords by the Earl of Harewood, and that to the Commons by the county members, Lord Milton and John Marshall, Esq.

A committee was also appointed, comprising merchants, woolstaplers, manufacturers, and the trustees of the Cloth Halls, to co-operate with the neighbouring districts, and to take measures to oppose the tax.

Mr. Sheppard, with Mr. Bischoff, Mr. Austin, and Mr. Webb, called upon Mr. Ward, member of Parliament for London, and requested him to present the petition to the House of Commons; and they afterwards called upon the Earl of Harewood, and requested him to present the petition to the House of Lords.

Mr. WARD presented the petition to the House of Commons on the 29th April; he was supported by Mr. Alderman Thompson, also one of the members for London.

Lord MILTON said this was a subject of the greatest importance to the whole country, and he hoped it would receive all the consideration which it deserved. The question was, whether the raw material or the manufactured article should be encouraged? If the object was to rebarbarise the country, the proposition for again imposing the duty would be well calculated to attain that end. He conceived it quite out of character with the progress of civilization and intellect. In the year 1824, he, with some others, had succeeded in satisfying government that this tax was impolitic, and ought to be repealed. It was accordingly repealed, and the landed interest was thus relieved from a very great inconvenience. The part which he himself took on that occasion was contrary to the sentiments of his constituents, but he had since the satisfaction to find that they acknowledged he was right, and that they were of opinion that restrictions ought to be got rid of, to which the manufacturers had always before looked for protection. If this tax was agreed to, it would be a positive violation of a bargain, which had been made between the two interests.

Sir Charles Burrell, Sir Thomas Lethbridge, and other

leading members in the agricultural interest, replied to Lord Milton.

Mr. Gott and Mr. Bischoff called upon Lord Wharncliffe, who promised to support Lord Harewood when he presented the petition to the House of Lords.

Lord Wharncliffe, wishing to have a copy of the table sent to Mr. Huskisson, Mr. Bischoff sent it to him, with the accompanying letter :—

“ Highbury, 1st May, 1828.

“ My dear Lord,

“ According to your lordship's desire, I send a copy of the table of prices, adding thereto the price of gold, viz :—

1816, 93s. 6d.; 1817, 80s.; 1818, 80s.; 1819, 81s. 6d.; 1820, 79s. 11d.; 1821, 79s. 10d.; 1822, 77s. 8d.; 1823, 77s. 8d.; 1824, 77s. 8d.; 1825, 77s. 8d.; 1826, 77s. 10d.; 1827, 77s. 6d.

“ The price of gold bears materially upon the question, and by its influence on the currency will, I think, account to your lordship for the reduced price of every article of merchandise. My object in making the table was to show, that the price of English wool has not fallen more than other raw materials, and has not fallen in consequence of the importation of foreign wool; they are in fact, though the produce of the same animal, and called by the same name (wool), different and distinct articles. Cotton wool enters into competition with English wool much more than fine foreign wool, and in order to force their fellow countrymen to wear the produce of their sheep, the country gentlemen should prohibit the use of cotton, which I hope they would find it difficult to accomplish. My table shows that the reduction in price has extended in a much greater ratio to coarse materials than fine; and this applies to flax, silk, and all other descriptions of merchandise, whether used for clothing or food: the inferences which may be drawn from this fact are, that whether the lower classes receive higher wages, or, what is equivalent, get a better article for their money, they are better clothed than formerly, and every raw material of inferior quality has been less in demand for home use.

“ With respect to South Down wool, your lordship will find on inquiry, that by the cross with Leicester and other larger sheep, the carcase and fleece have been in many districts increased; with the increased weight, the quality of the wool has been made unfit for some branches of manufacture to which it was applied, but by the increased length of the staple, their wool is now applicable to another purpose, viz. combing, and is purchased freely by the Bradford spinners: this will eventually improve the price.

“ If there should be any other information which your lordship thinks I can give you or procure, I shall always be happy to give you any in my power, and I have the honour to be &c. &c.

“ JAMES BISCHOFF.”

On the next day, Mr. Bischoff received a note as follows :—

“ Curzon Street, 2nd May, 1828.

“ My dear Sir,

“ You are of course aware that in the return of the quantity of wool imported, there is a distinction made between wools of the value of 1s. per lb. and that of a less value. Now I know that there is a notion among the agriculturists, that a duty might be imposed such as to exclude the latter description of wool from this country, and not to have the effect of diminishing the import of the finer, although I must confess, I am at a loss to imagine, how this could assist the grower of South Down wool ; but you or Mr. Gott can no doubt answer the following questions :—Of what description is this low priced wool ? In what article (manufactured) is it used ? Does it in any way interfere with the consumption of South Down wool, by being applied to the manufacture of articles in which that could (in case of its being excluded) be employed ?

“ If you can, pray let me have an answer to these queries on Monday.

“ I am, dear Sir,

“ WHARNCLIFFE.”

“ To James Bischoff, Esq.”

ANSWER.

“ Highbury, 4th May, 1828.

“ My dear Lord,

“ It will afford me great pleasure to give you every information in my power, and to answer the questions which your lordship has put to me. I fear you may accuse me of going too much into detail, but trust you will excuse it, and I know from experience, that your lordship has kindly waded through many letters much longer than they ought to have been, in order to obtain information.

“ I consider the whole point at issue to centre in your lordship's questions.

“ The low-priced foreign wools do sell at about the same rate as South Down wool, but they are so different in their nature and their qualities, that they not only do not interfere with the South Down, but are essential to their consumption.

“ The distinction which was made in the duty, viz., one half

penny per lb. on the importation of wool under the value of 1s. per lb., and a penny on wool above that value, was fixed in 1825, when Mr. Huskisson introduced his bill allowing the importation of foreign manufactured woollen goods for home consumption. Mr. Huskisson did me the honour to consult me upon that subject: I pointed out to him that though one half-penny per lb. appears very trifling in amount, it was a high per centage upon low wools; that if the cloths made in Prussia from those wools were imported into England, there was a peculiar softness in the wool, and firmness in the texture, that would give a preference in our market; but by reducing the tax to one half-penny, the low wools would be imported, and, by mixture with South Down wools, would give the English cloth the same softness and firmness, and make it capable of standing competition with foreign woollen cloths. This is the history of the distinction made in the importation of wool under one shilling, and above one shilling per lb.

"I now come to reply to your lordship's note, which I have shown to Mr. Gott, Mr. Sheppard, and other gentlemen here; and though I take no merit to myself for the opinion given to Mr. Huskisson in 1825, because any other man acquainted with the trade must have given the same opinion, the present inquiry and your lordship's questions fully establish the correctness of that opinion.

"Your lordship's *first question* is—

"1. Of what description is the low priced foreign wool?

"*Answer*.—It is of various descriptions, and comes from various countries; the wool of South America, Barbary, Turkey, and Iceland, are almost, if not all, under one shilling per lb.; these are more useful to the general merchant than to the manufacturer directly, as they enable the merchant to get returns from countries where there is difficulty in obtaining merchandise, and by the bulk of the article freight is given to their ships.

"Wool from Odessa is chiefly under one shilling per lb.: it comes in the state in which it is taken from the sheep's back, unwashed and unsorted, and though the hair is fine, the waste is enormous, but in this state it gives labour to the country to make it fit for the manufacturer: it will be soon found advantageous to have it washed and sorted before shipment.

"The wools of Spain and Germany come chiefly assorted: it is from the low description of the wools of Germany that the South Down wool growers derive the most benefit: the wool tax of sixpence per lb. forced the whole of that wool upon the hands of the growers; it raised up manufactures in Prussia and Switzerland, which deprived this country of a trade in very low cloths, coatings,

&c., under 3s. per yard, which we formerly almost exclusively enjoyed in Italy, Switzerland, the fairs of Leipzic and Frankfort, as well as other markets; and left upon the hands of the English farmers that low material, South Down wool, which used to be worked up into those articles. When the warehousing act passed in 1824, allowing the free transit of foreign cloth through our bonded warehouses to foreign markets, I conceived that the cloths which had supplanted us in the near continental markets of Europe, accessible to the manufacturers of Prussia, might be sold here to merchants trading with the distant markets of South America; the wool tax was in operation one year only during the warehousing act. I tried the experiment, and in the eight months of that year I sold 6,000 pieces of Prussian cloth under 5s. per yard, for South America and the East Indies; the reduction of the wool tax put an end to that trade.

“Second Question.—‘In what articles (manufactured) is it used?’

“In replying to the first question I have mentioned trades which were formerly enjoyed exclusively by the woollen manufacturers of this country, in Switzerland, Italy, &c. &c.: we lost those trades during the continuance of the wool tax. Upon its reduction, our old correspondents and customers were again visited, but we found they were supplied principally from Prussia, and, what frequently happens in common life, we found those whom we had considered our best friends, having formed new connections, and having new interests, in consequence of our impolitic laws, had become lukewarm, and even inimical; our low priced cloths, which had consumed our South Down wool, were supplanted by foreign manufactures; and though it is much more difficult to get back a lost customer than to find a new one, that trade is gradually returning to us, and, if left alone, will continue to increase, and with that will increase the consumption of South Down wool. The articles in which low foreign wool, by admixture with low English wool, is used, are cloths, coatings, bearskins or calmucks, used for great coats and carpets.

“Third Question.—‘Does it in any way interfere with the consumption of South Down wool, by being applied to the manufacture of articles in which it could, in case of its being excluded, be employed?’

“I think your Lordship will see from the answers already given, that my preliminary observation is correct, viz., that low priced foreign wool is of as much importance to the grower of South Down wool as it is to the woollen manufacturer.

“I hope, in replying to these questions, I have made myself

understood ; but if conversation would make it clearer, or satisfy any doubt in any quarter, I will wait upon your lordship whenever you may appoint."

It is unnecessary to insert the remainder of Mr. Bischoff's letter to Lord Wharnccliffe, as it stated what had occurred at an interview with the Privy Council, of which the following are the particulars :—

On the first of May, Mr. Bischoff was desired to attend the Privy Council, and he requested Mr. Sheppard, Mr. Webb, and Mr. Gott, would accompany him.

There were present the Duke of Wellington, First Lord of the Treasury ; Earl Bathurst, President of the Council ; Lord Ellenborough, Privy Seal ; Mr. Charles Grant, President, and Mr. Frankland Lewis, Vice-President, of the Board of Trade.

Mr. BISCHOFF stated, that as he was no longer directly concerned in the woollen trade, and might not possess the practical information required, he had desired the gentlemen named above to accompany him, and they were called into the council room.

The DUKE of WELLINGTON, with that anxiety and determination, so conspicuous in his character, to obtain information, examined Mr. Bischoff, Mr. Sheppard, Mr. Webb, and Mr. Gott, upon every branch of the woollen manufacture,—before the tax was imposed on the raw material, during the continuance of that tax, and since its reduction : he ascertained by his questions from what countries we had got our supplies of wool, the different qualities obtained from different countries, the purposes to which they were respectively applied, the countries to which we exported our woollen manufactures, the population employed therein, the wages given in different branches, and, after a very minute and searching investigation, which continued for a great length of time, he said, "I am satisfied," and left the room.

Some further questions were then put by LORD ELLENBOROUGH, who said they had determined to have a committee in the House of Lords to investigate the business.

Mr. BISCHOFF stated, that as the Privy Council had done him the honour to ask his opinion as to the wool and woollen trade, he considered it to be his duty to state, that the

appointment of such a committee would paralyse the woollen manufacture; that the mill-owners and merchants, still suffering under the blow given to them by the tax when imposed, would act with the greatest caution, and the consequence would be that the districts now so well employed, so prosperous, and peaceful, would be thrown out of work.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH said that such consequences could not ensue, as the committee would thoroughly investigate the question, and would probably not make a report for three years.

Mr. BISCHOFF said that for three years then the woollen manufacture and the wool trade would be in that state of uncertainty as to severely injure their trades; but Lord Ellenborough said they could not alter their determination.

Lord BATHURST, however, thought it most desirable that the Duke of Wellington should know what Mr. Bischoff had said, and the Duke was again sent for; he consulted the other members of the council, and then stated that he had promised the agricultural interest should have a committee; but from what he had heard upon this inquiry, he hoped little inconvenience would arise; and if any plan could be suggested to prevent alarm, he would adopt it. He was quite sure, as he understood from what had passed, that we imported a raw material, and afterwards exported it in a manufactured state with labour attached to it: he would oppose any tax whatever. Mr. Bischoff said that if His Grace, in agreeing to a committee, would state that he would resist any tax on wool, the manufacturers would be satisfied. The Duke immediately said he would do so, and went to the House of Lords and gave that opinion.

The DUKE of RICHMOND rose to propose the order of the day (in the House of Lords, 1st May,) to refer the petition of the wool growers to a committee of inquiry. He should, however, feel it his duty to bring forward the subject on Monday next.

The EARL of HAREWOOD held a petition to present to their lordships from merchants residing in the city of London, (viz., petition to the House of Commons,) who were importers of foreign wool and in the woollen trade, but who

requested their lordships not to agree to any further duty being levied on the importation of foreign wool. As the question concerning wool would be brought forward on Monday next, he should till such time abstain from making any remarks on the present petition.

On the motion of the EARL of MALMSBURY, the prayer of the petition was read. The petitioners stated, that they were engaged in the woollen trade, and in the exportation of woollen manufactures, and they prayed their lordships not to consent to any increase of the tax on the importation of foreign wool, nor to go into a committee of inquiry upon the state of the wool growers, as such a proceeding would excite alarm and confusion in the manufacturing districts.

The EARL of MALMSBURY thought there was matter in the petition which was well worthy of their lordships' consideration. He was not surprised that the petitioners prayed that there might be no increase of duty on foreign wool imported, because such increase of duty would be injurious to their interests; but the petitioners went further than that, and prayed their lordships not to go into a committee of inquiry, which their lordships had been requested to do by thousands of petitioners, stating a strong case of distress. Was that the part of candid men? Could such conduct fail to convey an idea, that the present petitioners were afraid of inquiry, because they were convinced that the agriculturists would bring forward such proofs of their statements as would make it impossible for their lordships not to grant the protection? For his own part, he was at a loss to state what he was obliged to think of petitioners who entreated their lordships not to grant an inquiry which had been prayed for by thousands of petitioners, claiming relief from their lordships under distress of the most pressing nature, not only existing at the present moment, but which has continued for many years past.

The EARL of HAREWOOD wished to make a few observations, in consequence of what had fallen from the noble earl. He disclaimed entirely on the part of the petitioners any desire of not going into the inquiry upon the ground of preventing those persons who complained of their distressed situation from being heard, but on account of another circum-

stance necessarily connected with the inquiry. Noble lords seemed not to be aware of the excessive mischief which would ensue to the trade of this country by going into inquiry of a detail of circumstances, which were afterwards conveyed out of this country and circulated in other countries, and thereby effecting material injury to the trade of this country. The simple meaning of the petition which had been presented was this,—after the lapse of a considerable time, the woollen manufacture of this kingdom was gradually reviving under a duty of one penny on the importation of foreign wool. The dismay talked of by the petitioners was the dismay which would be introduced into large manufacturing districts by the agitation of the subject, and they prayed their lordships not to go into a committee in order to place an additional tax on foreign wool, because it was not for the sake of experiment, as the experiment had been tried and failed. The petitioners, therefore, simply said, that as the experiment had been tried and failed, they deprecated going into a committee of inquiry, where examinations would be taken and reported all over the world, and throwing dismay into the minds of all engaged in the woollen trade, at the very moment when that trade was again reviving.

The EARL of MALMSBURY had learnt with the greatest pleasure that the woollen manufacturers were experiencing a return of prosperity. When, however, the petitioners talked of dismay, he would wish to apply that term rather to men who were really suffering under distress, than to those who apprehended distress. He therefore thought that the representations of those petitioners would not justify their lordships from withholding that fair inquiry to which the agriculturists were entitled. The inquiry which the agriculturists called for had nothing whatever to do with respect to duty, and he believed he was not out of order in stating, that in their lordships' house no duty could be proposed. The object of the agriculturists was to lay before Parliament a fair statement of their case, and to meet in a committee of inquiry those who were opposed to them.

The DUKE of WELLINGTON (who had just returned from the investigation already mentioned) wished to say one word in reference to what had fallen from the noble lord who had

just sat down. He (the Duke of Wellington) would give his consent to a committee of inquiry on the very grounds which had been stated by that noble lord, viz., on purpose to enter into a fair inquiry of the causes of depression of the wool growers, but by no means with the intention of following that inquiry up by laying a duty on the imported article. His own opinion was, that noble lords would be completely satisfied from the result of the inquiry, that the causes of the depression were not to be removed by laying an additional duty on foreign wool.

It is unnecessary to give the remainder of the discussion, which turned principally upon the returns made to Parliament respecting the wool and woollen trade. The Marquis of Salisbury, the Duke of Richmond, and Lord Redesdale, spoke as advocates for the agriculturists, and Lord Wharncliffe supported the Earl of Harewood.

It having been thus determined that a Committee of the House of Lords should be appointed to investigate the wool and woollen trade, it became necessary to prepare evidence, and the compiler of these Memoirs wrote the following letter to his nephew, Mr. Thomas Bischoff, Jun., Leeds:—

“ My dear Nephew,

“ There was an appointment yesterday with Lord Harewood, in order to consider what course it will be best to adopt in the wool business. The question is brought within few points, and these may, I think, be clearly established, but they will require labour and great attention. The question must, if possible, be set at rest *for ever*, so that people may embark with confidence in the woollen manufacture, and not again be exposed to an inquiry which cannot fail to be injurious, or to a tax which might be fatal to them.

“ The evidence must be taken from the manufacturing districts, and chiefly from those employed in the coarser fabrics, where they have met with the competition of foreigners in foreign markets, and have been obliged to resort to foreign wool either in part or altogether, in order to meet the taste and discernment of foreigners.

“ The Leeds committee must endeavour to obtain this information. I address myself to you, having corresponded throughout with you, and knowing that you will show my letter to Mr. John Gott, and to your committee.

“ In procuring evidence you must carefully guard against any exaggeration; you must watch it narrowly, and not allow either

feelings or fear to induce a man to state what is not strictly true, and what he cannot clearly prove: it will be much better to prove too little, than endeavour to prove too much; and the committee must check any attempts to go beyond the strict and literal facts with which they are themselves informed.

“ The points to be established are,—

“ 1st. Wool—its increase of growth in Great Britain, its deterioration, the stock of English wool on hand, the advantage of foreign coarse wool in aid of the consumption of English wool.

“ The best mode of proving the increase and deterioration of English wool, as it appears to me, will be to follow up Mr. Luccock's tables, because Mr. Luccock's work is admitted as the standard by the Committee of the Lords: both these points are to a certain extent admitted by the wool-growers; but I think the result of the investigation will be, that it is more increased and more deteriorated than they have allowed. Mr. Luccock's book was printed in 1805; I have some idea that his tables were made in 1800; I have therefore prepared blank tables, in which I have inserted the different districts and figures from Mr. Luccock's tables for 1800, and have left blanks to be filled up for 1828. Almost all the wool from each county, or some from each county, finds its way to Leeds, and from the Leeds woolstaplers, I think, you will without difficulty fill up the blanks. I have added to the tables a column for price in fleece in 1800 and 1828, which it is very desirable to have filled up.

“ In classing the wools, Mr. Luccock has arranged them according to the counties: this would show a deterioration, but not explain the particulars of that deterioration: the cause will remain with the wool-growers: it has probably arisen from the different state of food; but the manufacturer had better confine himself to the fact, and I think it will be best established by taking four periods, commencing before the French revolution. I have therefore fixed 1785, 1800, 1815, and 1828, and left blanks in the table for each of those periods. I have not gone by either the number or technical names of sorts made by the wool-sorters, but have divided them into six classes, reserving a column for the aggregate quantity which might be used for combing: the class would embrace—

1st class—the pick-lock and prime.

2nd class—the choice and super.

3rd class—the head and downright.

4th class—seconds and abbs.

5th class—livery and short coarse.

6th class—pick-lock, grey, &c. &c.

" I have also left a column to be filled with the price of the wool of these classes at the four periods I have mentioned, and I think the result will show, that though the price of each class has not fallen so much as has been stated, the qualities in sorting the fleeces have been considerably reduced in the finer sorts, and consequently increased in the lower sorts, and will establish completely the deterioration and its extent.

" In stating the quantity fit for combing, it would be desirable to state the length of the staple required for combing in 1785, the different improvements made in machinery, and the length of staple which can now be applied to combing. When I have these tables returned to me from the different districts, I shall be enabled to make a general table of the whole, having on one side Mr. Luccock's statement of 1800, and added to it the state of 1828: this will show—

" The relative quantity of sheep,
The relative weight of the fleece,
The relative quantity of each sort,
The relative price of each sort,
The produce of each sheep,
The produce of wool of each acre.

" It will then be desirable to ascertain the relative weight of the carcase, and the relative price of meat. The first will, I think, be difficult, though it is probable some of the old butchers in Leeds may be able to give information on both; but the prices paid for meat at the Leeds Infirmary will, I think, be the best standard you could procure, because I believe they have confined themselves to certain joints per week, which were bought in the market many years by Mr. Leonard Newsom, and since his death by Mr. Teale, or Mr. Hobson, who have always bought at the lowest market price.

" So far for wool. I now come to the manufactured goods. Evidence will be wanted respecting each article. I shall begin with coatings. You must endeavour to ascertain—

" The proportion made from English wool,
The proportion made from foreign wool,

The proportion made from English and foreign wool mixed;
And the advantage of each, viz., if coatings made from English wool at ten pence per lb. are so good as coatings made from foreign wool at ten pence per lb., or so good as coatings made from English and foreign wool mixed, each at ten pence per lb.; and, if there be any difference, what difference of value is between each? Also, if foreign coarse wool should be excluded by a tax or prohibition, to ascertain if coatings can be made of English wool

alone suitable to, or to bear competition with, coatings made abroad, and sold in foreign open markets? Also the proportion of coatings made in the West Riding of Yorkshire for home use and for exportation. You must get evidence to show from what countries the wool for that purpose is brought, its peculiar properties compared with English wool, and to what countries the coatings are sent. I think Mr. Dixon, Mr. Gott's nephew, can give clear evidence on these points.

" Similar evidence must be given with respect to calmuks, carpeting, stuffs, baize, flannels, cloths under 3s. per yard, cloths from 3s. to 5s. per yard, cloths from 5s. to 8s. per yard, cloths from 8s. to 12s. per yard, cloths upwards of 12s. per yard, and all other woollen and worsted articles.

" This information must be got from manufacturers, and confirmed by the merchants, who export the goods finished; you must let us know the names of the persons also who will give the information, with the points to which each can speak, that Lord Harewood and Lord Wharnccliffe may be in possession of all the evidence that will be given.

" You must next endeavour to ascertain the weight of wool that is manufactured for foreign markets, in order to show that a greater weight of wool is exported in its manufactured state or in its raw state, than the weight of wool imported: if you will inform me the weight of wool used in a yard of cloth, a yard of coating, of carpet, of stuff, of flannel, &c. &c. &c., I will ascertain the number of yards of each exported, and calculate the entire quantity used.

" The next point to ascertain will be the relative quality of foreign cloth at a fixed price as compared with the quality of English wool at the same price; the relative value of English wool at present and at different periods for some years back, as compared with other merchandise, in order to show whether the price of wool has fluctuated more than the price of other merchandise, and if the depression in the price of wool is and has been greater than the depression of other goods: the price of other goods can be obtained here. I have ordered extracts to be taken from *Prince's Price Current* for the first week in May, of various articles of merchandise, as well as of gold and silver, from 1785 to 1828; but all the other information must be obtained in Yorkshire, and you will have no difficulty in getting it: you cannot find more intelligent men than the gentlemen who have been here.

" You must also get every information respecting Scotch and Irish wool."

Preparations being thus arranged to meet the investigation

in the House of Lords, an attempt was still made by His Majesty's Ministers to prevent it; Mr. Sheppard, Mr. Gott, Mr. Bischoff and Mr. Webb were again summoned to attend the Privy Council, and were desired to take with them any who they thought could give clear information respecting wool and woollens; and after having waited there a considerable time, Lord Bathurst informed them that the Duke of Wellington, anxious to satisfy those most desirous for a committee, had desired them also to attend, and had proposed that both parties should meet in the council room, and calmly discuss the question before the ministers; but he was sorry to say the Duke of Richmond and others who were in the adjoining room had declined that proposal, and it therefore became necessary that a formal investigation should take place before a committee of the House of Lords, which would be appointed that evening; that the evidence of the agriculturists would be first gone into, and when that was finished, (and which it was understood would occupy several days), it would become necessary for the manufacturers and wool merchants to be prepared with their evidence.

CHAPTER V.

1828.

Members of the Committee of the House of Lords—Names of the Witnesses examined—Subjects inquired into, and evidence given on each, viz.—1. Former and present state of the Woollen Manufacture—2. Stock of English Wool on hand—3. Depression in the Price of Wool, and Causes—Table of Price of English Wool, 1759 to 1811—4. Past and present State of Agriculture, in Light and Upland Soils, as dependant on the Folding System—5. Change in the Weight of the Carcase, and the Quality of the Fleece.

THE committee of the House of Lords being thus determined upon, the following noblemen were appointed the select committee to take into consideration the state of the British wool trade, and to report to the House:—Earl Bathurst, President of the Council; the Duke of Wellington, First Lord of the Treasury; Lord Ellenborough, Privy Seal; the Duke of Richmond, the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Marquis of Salisbury, Earl Delawar, Earl of Harewood, Earl of Lauderdale, Earl of Malmsbury, Earl of Rosslyn, Earl Stanhope, Earl of Walsingham, Lord Viscount Goderich, Lord Auckland, Lord Bexley, Lord Dacre, Lord Redesdale, Lord Wharncliffe, Lord Wallace, Lord Napier.

The following witnesses were examined on the part of the agriculturists:—Henry Boys, farmer, Waldershare, Kent; William Ruddle Brown, farmer, Broad Hinton, Wiltshire; William Caudwell, farmer, Drayton, Berkshire; John Lucas Calcroft, farmer, Ancaster, Lincolnshire; Walter Frederick Campbell, Esq., M. P., Isle of Isla; Stewart Donaldson, merchant, London; Thomas Duke, farmer, Warning Camp, Sussex; Thomas Ebsworth, wool broker, London; John Ellman, Jun., farmer, Southover, Sussex; John Ellman, Esq., Glynde, Sussex; Francis Hall, farmer, Alringham, Suffolk; George Webb Hall, farmer, Sneed Park, Gloucestershire; William Hanning, Esq., Ilminster, Somersetshire;

Richard Healey, farmer, Laughton, Lincolnshire; Henry Hughes, Blackwell Hall factor, London; Robert Hughes, farmer and grazier, Salthrop, Wiltshire; John Ilott, farmer, land and tithe valuer, Abbey Milton, Dorsetshire; Henry King, farmer, Chilmark, Wiltshire; Thomas Legg, woolstapler, Bermondsey; Lord Napier, Ettrick forest, Selkirk; Thomas Newton, farmer, Crowmarsh, Oxon; William Pinkney, farmer, Everley, Wiltshire; Christopher Thomas Tower, Esq., Weald Hall, Essex; Charles Callis Western, Esq., M. P. for the county of Essex; John Wolledge, farmer, Ingham, Suffolk.

The following witnesses were examined for the manufacturers and wool dealers:—James Bischoff, merchant, London; John Brooke, cloth manufacturer, Honley, Yorkshire; John Brooke, manufacturer of blankets, Dewsbury, Yorkshire; Charles Bull, wool agent, Lewes, Sussex; Thomas Cook, manufacturer of blankets, Dewsbury, Yorkshire; William Cunningham, woolstapler, Upavon, Wilts; James Fison, wool dealer, Thetford, Norfolk; John Cogan Francis, cloth manufacturer, Heytesbury, Wilts; George Goodman, wool factor, Leeds; Benjamin Gott, cloth manufacturer and merchant, Leeds; James Hubbard, wool merchant, Leeds; William Ireland, Blackwell Hall factor, London; Robert Jowitt, woolstapler, Leeds; William Nottidge, woolstapler, Bermondsey; John Nussey, cloth manufacturer, Birstal, Yorkshire; Thomas Sheppard, Blackwell Hall factor, London; John Sutcliffe, woolstapler, Huddersfield; Joseph Swaine, cloth manufacturer, Gomersal, Yorkshire; Jacob Tweedale, flannel manufacturer, Rochdale, Lancashire; John Varley, cloth manufacturer and merchant, Leeds; Gervase Walker, cloth manufacturer, Horbury, Yorkshire; Charles Webb, Blackwell Hall factor, London.

The following were neuter:—Peter Hoffman, ship broker, London; Edward Charles Hohler; Robert Hulme, salesman, Leadenhall market; William Irving, Esq., Inspector General of Imports and Exports; Patrick Kelly, LL.D. London; James William Smith, accountant, London.

The case of the agriculturists was conducted chiefly by Mr. Ellman, Jun. and Mr. Webb Hall.

The case of the manufacturers was put under the manage-

ment and conducted by Mr. Charles Bischoff, solicitor, London.

The Lords' committee directed their inquiries principally to the following matters :—

- “ 1. The past and present state of the growers of short or clothing wools, of long or combing wools, and of British merino wools.
- “ 2. The probability of any change in that state ; the stock of British wool now in the hands of the grower, the stapler, and the manufacturer, and a comparison between the stock on hand now, and at former periods.
- “ 3. The depression in the price of wool, and the various causes from which it is alleged to proceed.
- “ 4. The past and present state of agriculture in light and upland soils, as dependant upon the folding system, and the use of particular breeds of sheep.
- “ 5. The change which is alleged to have taken place in the weight of the carcase of the sheep, in the quality of the fleece, and in its usefulness for the purposes of manufacture.
- “ 6. The various uses of long and short wools.
- “ 7. The application of short wools to the purpose of combing.
- “ 8. The export and import of woollen cloths.
- “ 9. The effect of duties in this and in foreign countries on wool and on woollen manufactures.
- “ 10. The proportion of the home and the foreign markets for woollen manufactures.
- “ 11. The change which has taken place in the demand for the finer articles of manufacture.
- “ 12. The past and present value of cloths manufactured solely from British wools, from any mixture of British wools with the finer wools of Germany and Spain, with the low wools of the Mediterranean, Germany, Denmark, Russia, and Iceland, and with wools from Australia.
- “ 13. The value of cloths made wholly from foreign wools.
- “ 14. The effect of the manufacture of articles made of cotton, and of cotton mixed with wool, upon the wool market and upon the woollen trade.

“ 15. The importation of woollen rags, and the uses to which they have been applied.

“ 16. The probable increase of the supply of wool from Australia.

“ And in order to bring under general view the documents which have been laid before the House relating to this subject, and for the purpose of more convenient reference, the committee have directed that these documents should be added in an appendix.”

Following the plan thus laid down by the Committee of the House of Lords, such evidence is placed under each head as was given by both parties,—compressing it so as to bring prominently forward whatever is important, and bearing upon those respective heads, and omitting what appears to be irrelevant; and having done that, the same course is followed upon other subjects, to which the committee of the House of Lords omitted to draw the attention of their lordships, but which appear important. The points so omitted were—

The quantity of wool produced in the United Kingdom.

The advantages or disadvantages arising or apprehended from the exportation of British wool.

The qualities of foreign wools.

The qualities of English wools.

The cost of manufacture in its various branches.

The former and the present state of the woollen manufacture in Great Britain.

The former and present state of the woollen manufacture in other countries.

“ 1. *The past and present state of the growers of short or clothing wools, of long or combing wools, and of British merino wools.*”

Mr. TOWER.—There is no substitute for sheep in hilly countries where the dung-cart cannot be found. The folding system is necessary to that land. The market price of mutton is higher.

Mr. EBSWORTH.—The short wools, principally of Sussex, which were formerly much used in the manufacture of second cloths, are now almost wholly thrown out of the market by the admission of foreign wools.

Mr. KING.—The low price of wool and sheep, coupled with the low price of corn, will throw entirely out of cultivation many of the high lands. The loss the wool grower sustains by wool is not less than sixteen per cent. ; the loss which I sustain on my present stock of three years' growth, is £2437 10s. The number of sheep has not increased in Wiltshire.

Mr. BULL.—There are not many more sheep kept in Sussex than formerly, but the quantity of wool has increased. They must have sheep, unquestionably, in many parts of Sussex, in order to manure their land ; there are farms of very great extent, with very high hills, where it would be ruinous to attempt to get a large quantity of manure. I do not see in many situations how they would do without sheep.

Mr. FISON.—The farmers now return their sheep, as they are accustomed to call it, much quicker,—that is, fatten and sell them at earlier periods ; the farmers formerly were not able to fatten and sell their sheep before they were two or three years old, but under the improved system of agriculture they fatten and sell them at from one to two years old, so that there has been a gradual deterioration of wool since 1793.

Mr. HUBBARD.—The wool grown in England has rapidly increased.

“ 2. The probability of any change in that state ; the stock of British wool now in the hands of the grower, the stapler, and the manufacturer, and a comparison between the stock on hand now, and at former periods.”

Mr. ELLMAN.—There are three years' growth of wool on hand.

Mr. G. W. HALL.—The stock of merino wool is from one to one and a half year's clip.

Mr. LEGG.—There are three, four, and in some cases five years' stock on hand.

Mr. KING.—There are three years' growth of wool on hand.

Mr. WOLLEDGE.—There are about two years' clip on hand.

Mr. W. R. BROWN.—There are two or three years' growth of wool on hand in Wiltshire.

Mr. DUKE.—There are three years' clip on hand in Sussex.

Mr. NOTTIDGE.—I consider the stock of wool in the hands of the dealers to be very low now, to what it used to be on an average of years.

Mr. C. BULL.—I know twenty farms in Sussex, and the following is the stock of wool on hand now:—One has four years' clip; fifteen, three ditto; two, two ditto; two, one ditto.

Mr. SHEPPARD.—The stocks of wool in the hands of the manufacturers are not so great as they were ten years ago; the manufacturer has learned from the distress of the year 1826, and has refrained from purchasing so largely, and has left it on the hands of the woolstaplers in some measure, and the woolstaplers have left it in the hands of the farmer. I think the determination of the wool growers in the middle of the year 1826, not to reduce their prices, when every other article had fallen so much in price, has caused the stock which is at present on hand. It has not only done that, but it has given a taste to all society to have finer cloth. I can only say, that in 1826 the growers of England would not reduce, while foreigners did reduce their prices from 1s. to 1s. 3d. per pound. The English grower did not sell during that period, and his stock has accumulated in consequence.

Mr. JOHN SUTCLIFFE.—I know Scotland from one end to the other, and firmly believe there are not in Scotland six growers who have three years' wool on hand. I can name most of the clips that are on hand.

“ 3. The depression in the price of wool, and the various causes from which it is alleged to proceed.”

Mr. PINCKNEY.—The price of South Down wool has fallen in four years from 1s. 6d. per lb. to 8d. per lb.

Mr. ELLMAN, Jun.—The price of South Down wool was in 1818, 2s. 6d. per lb.; in 1819, 1s. 6d. per lb.; in 1825, 1s. per lb.; in 1827, 9d. per lb. The fall in price is occasioned by the importation of foreign wool. South Down wool at 1s. 6d. per lb. is equal to wheat at the price of 60s. per quarter. The price of wool fell after the tax of sixpence per lb. was laid on. There was such an immense quantity imported in 1819, that we considered that not till the year

1824 had we recovered from the effects of the immense import, and the quantity reduced to the year's growth. Provided wheat is sold at 60s. per quarter, and wool at 1s. 6d. per lb., I should get ten per cent. upon my capital.

LORD NAPIER.

The following have been the prices of Cheviot wools :—

s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.	
1818...	1	4 per lb.	1822...	0	6 per lb.	1826...	0	5 per lb.
1819...	0	10 „	1823...	0	4 $\frac{3}{4}$ „	1827...	0	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ „
1820...	0	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ „	1824...	0	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ „			
1821...	0	8 $\frac{1}{4}$ „	1825...	0	10 „			

The great importation was in the year 1825; that year the prices were 10d. per lb., and the next year they came down to 5d. per lb. I consider 11d. per lb. a remunerating price for Cheviot wool.

Mr. RICHARD HEALY.

The following are the prices of Lincolnshire wool, taking the average of seven years, viz. :—

	s.	d.	
From 1807 to 1813	1	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	per lb.
From 1814 to 1820	1	7	„
From 1821 to 1827	1	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	„

Mr. ELLMAN gave a table of the price of wool similar to that of his son. Considers that 1s. 6d. per lb. is a remunerating price for South Down wool.

Mr. HENRY HUGHES.—The importation of continental wools has very greatly superseded the use of British wools, since the reduction of the duty on low foreign wools; since they have been equalised. Before the duty was taken off wool, we used to have a certain description of cloth for livery purposes, called second cloth, made of English wool; and within the last few years, since the tax was taken off, the quantity of foreign wools which have been imported has been such, and of such a character, that the manufacturers of this country have appropriated that wool more than English wool, because it works with less trouble; and latterly even our liveries have been made, I believe, principally of foreign wool, and not English wool. In my opinion, the foreign wool has displaced, in a considerable degree, the British wool in the

home market. It is extraordinary that when the duty on wool was taken off, English wools rose in price, and particularly South Down wool.

Mr. LEGG.—The reduced price of South Down wool is caused, in my opinion, by the great importation of low German and Spanish wools. The price of South Down wool depends entirely upon the importation. Delivered in the following table :—

Average Price of South Down and Kent Long Wool, for August, September, and October, in each year, 1759 to 1827 :—

South Down.		Kent.		South Down.		Kent.	
s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
1759	0 8½	0 7½		1789	1 0	0 8½	
1760	0 8½	0 7½		1790	1 0½	0 9½	
1761	0 6½	0 6		1791	0 11½	0 9	
1762	0 6½	0 6		1792	1 4	0 11½	
1763	0 8	0 7		1793	0 11½	0 9½	
1764	0 8	0 8		1794	1 1	0 9½	
1765	0 7½	0 7		1795	1 3	0 10	
1766	0 8	0 8		1796	1 4	0 9½	
1767	0 9	0 7½		1797	1 3	0 9½	
1768	0 7	0 6½		1798	1 3	0 9½	
1769	0 7	0 6½		1799	1 9	1 0	
1770	0 7½	0 7		1800	1 5	1 0½	
1771	0 8	0 7½		1801	1 7	1 0½	
1772	0 7	0 6½		1802	1 7	1 2	
1773	0 7	0 7		1803	1 8	1 1½	
1774	0 8	0 7		1804	1 10	1 3	
1775	0 9	0 8		1805	2 3	1 4	
1776	0 8½	0 8		1806	1 10	1 4½	
1777	0 8	0 7½		1807	2 0	1 2	
1778	0 6½	0 5½		1808	1 9	1 0½	
1779	0 6	0 6		1809	3 0	1 3	
1780	0 7½	0 6½		1810	2 4	1 4	
1781	0 7½	0 5		1811	1 5	1 1	
1782	0 8	0 5½		1812	1 8	1 1½	
1783	0 8	0 6½		1813	1 11	1 3	
1784	0 8½	0 7		1814	2 2	1 9	
1785	0 9	0 7		1815	1 11	1 10	
1786	0 9	0 7½		1816	1 6	1 2	
1787	0 11	0 9½		1817	2 0	1 3	
1788	1 0	0 9		1818	2 6	2 0	

(Continued.)

South Down.			Kent.		South Down.			Kent.	
	s.	d.				s.	d.		
1819	1	7	.....	1 3	1824	1	2	.....	1 1
1820	1	5	.....	1 4	1825	1	4	.....	1 4
1821	1	3	.....	1 1	1826	0	10	.....	0 11
1822	1	3	.....	0 11	1827	0	9	.....	0 10½
1823	1	3½	.....	1 0					

Mr. G. WEBB HALL.

Prices of Merino Wools per lb., unwashed fleece :—

s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.	
1816...	2	6 per lb.	1820...	1	8 per lb.	1824...	1	9 per lb.
1827...	2	0 „	1821...	1	6 „	1825...		Unsaleable.
1818...	2	3 „	1822...	1	6 „	1826...		Do.
1819...	1	8 „	1823...	1	3 „	1827...		Do.

I think the present depression may be clearly traced to new sources of supply having been opened to the British merchants. I think a remunerating price for merino wool, in the state it comes from the sheep, unwashed, should be 2s. to 2s. 6d. per lb.

Mr. FRANCIS HALE.—The price of South Down wool was 1s. 9d. per lb. in 1824, and I could not now get an offer for it. The nominal price is 7½d. per lb. I consider 1s. 6d. per lb. a fair remunerating price. Wool at 1s. 6d. per lb. is equal to wheat at 62s. to 64s. per quarter.

C. T. TOWER, Esq.—The average price of merino wool in the Royston market was—1815 to 1818, 1s. 11½d. per lb.; 1820 to 1823, 1s. 1½d. per lb; 1825 to 1827, 10½d. per lb. There has been no deterioration in quality in five years.

Mr. EBSWORTH.—The prices of foreign wool, which most compete with English wool, are those from about 6d. to 1s. 6d. per lb.

Mr. HENRY KING.

Account of the Prices of South Down Wool sold by Henry King, of Chilmark, in the County of Wilts, from the year 1813 to 1824 :—

s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.	
1813...	1	10 per lb.	1817...	2	1 per lb.	1821...	1	3 per lb.
1814...	2	10 „	1818...	1	5 „	1822...	1	4 „
1815...	1	9 „	1819...	1	5 „	1823...	1	3 „
1816...	1	6 „	1820...	1	4 „	1824...	1	3 „

The clip of 1825, 1826, and 1827, not sold. There has been great difficulty of sale, and that which has been sold fetched from 7d. to 9d. per lb. I consider 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. per lb. a fair remunerating price for South Down wool.

Mr. W. R. BROWN.

Sales of South Down wool by Mr. W. R. Brown, of Broad Hinton, in Wilts, from 1818 to 1828 :—

s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.	
1818 ..	2	4 per lb.	1822...	1	3 per lb.	1825...	0	9 per lb.
1819...	1	4 $\frac{1}{4}$ „	1823...	1	4 $\frac{1}{4}$ „	1826...	0	9 „
1820...	1	4 $\frac{1}{4}$ „	1824...	1	3 „	1827...	0	9 „
1821...	1	3 „						

There has been great difficulty in the sale of South Down wool for the last two years: we have hardly had an offer; the price of that sold was from 7d. to 9d. per lb. The quality of South Down wool is not worse than it was. The low price is occasioned by foreign wool.

Mr. THOMAS DUKE.

The prices of the South Down wool of Mr. Thomas Duke, of Warning Camp, near Arundel, in Sussex, as purchased by Mr. Richard Snelgrove :—

s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.	
1809...	2	9 $\frac{3}{4}$ per lb.	1816...	1	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ per lb.	1822...	1	4 per lb.
1810...	1	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ „	1817...	1	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ „	1823...	1	3 „
1811...	1	9 $\frac{3}{4}$ „	1818...	2	6 „	1824...	1	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ „
1812 ..	1	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ „	1819...	1	6 „	1825...	0	9 „
1813...	1	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ „	1820...	1	6 „	1826...	0	9 „
1814 ..	2	0 „	1821...	1	3 „	1827...	0	9 „
1815...	1	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ „						

Mr. THOMAS NEWTON, of Crowmarsh, Oxfordshire.—

Prices at which I have sold my wool since 1812 :—

s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.	
1813...	2	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ per lb.	1818...	1	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per lb.	1823...	1	6 per lb.
1814...	2	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ „	1819...	1	7 „	1824...	1	6 „
1815...	2	0 „	1820...	1	6 „	1825,		not sold.
1816...	1	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ „	1821...	1	6 „	1826...		do.
1817...	1	7 „	1822...	1	6 „	1827...		do.

I conceive the cause of the depreciation in wool arises from the duty being taken off foreign wool, and the immense quantity flowing into the country.

CHARLES CALLIS WESTERN, Esq.—There has been a difficulty of sale for merino wool in the last five years; the price has fallen from 3s. per lb. to 1s. 1d. per lb., at which price I sold last year's wool. The reason that in some parts of the country they have crossed their South Down flocks with long-woolled sheep is, that the wool of the sheep so crossed, though inferior in point of fineness, has a longer staple, and fetches a higher price than even the finest of the South Down fleeces. I think the cause of the depression of price is dependant,—first, on the supply as proportioned to the demand,—and secondly, on the alteration of the currency, (return from paper to cash payments,) which latter cause, I think, has had more effect on the price than even the increased amount of supply, but the increased amount of supply, (I mean foreign supply,) must have had its influence, and materially so.

Mr. J. L. CALCRAFT.

An Account of Wool sold by J. L. Calcraft, from 1799 to 1826. Long-woolled sheep:—

s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.	
1799...	0	9 per lb.	1809...	1	1 per lb.	1819...	1	7 per lb.
1800...	0	11 „	1810...	1	1 „	1820...	1	6 „
1801...	1	2 „	1811...	0	11½ „	1821...	1	0 „
1802...	1	1½ „	1812...	1	1 „	1822...	1	0 „
1803...	1	2 „	1813...	1	3½ „	1823...	1	0½ „
1804...	1	1½ „	1814...	1	7¼ „	1824...	1	2 „
1805...	1	1 „	1815...	1	11½ „	1825...	1	6 „
1806...	1	0 „	1816...	1	1½ „	1826...	0	11 „
1807...	1	0 „	1817...	1	8½ „	1827...	0	11 „
1808...	0	11 „	1818...	1	11½ „			

The price is now about 10d., but expected to fall to 9d. as soon as the flocks are clipped, as the farmers are in want of money, with near a year's stock on hand, and but little demand.

F. HALE.

Prices of Suffolk wool.

s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.	
1809...	2	6 per lb.	1815...	2	0 per lb.	1820...	1	3 per lb.
1810...	2	6 „	1816...	1	9½ „	1821...	1	3 „
1811...	2	0 „	1817...	2	0 „	1822...	1	3 „
1812...	2	0 „	1818...	1	3 „	1823...	1	3½ „
1813...	2	6¾ „	1819...	1	3 „	1824...	1	9 „
1814...	2	0 „						

Mr. WILLIAM PINKNEY.

South Down wool, Wilts.

	s.	d.			s.	d.			s.	d.	
1803...	1	8	per lb.	1812...	1	10	per lb.	1820 ..	1	5	per lb.
1804...	2	1	„	1813...	1	10	„	1821...	1	4	„
1805...	1	10	„	1814...	2	6	„	1822...	1	4	„
1806...	1	10	„	1815...	2	0	„	1823...	1	5	„
1807...	1	10	„	1816...	2	0	„	1824...	1	5	„
1808...	2	0	„	1817 ..	2	0	„	1825...	0	11	„
1809...	1	10	„	1818...	1	5	„	1826...	0	11	„
1810...	1	10	„	1819...	1	5	„	1827...	0	8	„
1811...	1	10	„								

Mr. WILLIAM NOTTIDGE.—Wool from South Down sheep, crossed with a larger breed and fed on inclosed lands, having a longer staple, meet with a readier sale, and are worth more money than fine South Down wools of a better quality. We cannot give the same price for fine South Down wool that we did formerly, because we cannot sell it for the same amount: we could formerly sell the very best for 3s. per lb.; now we cannot get more than 1s. 6d. per lb. I certainly expect that the cheapness of foreign wool has stopped the demand for fine English wool.

Prices paid for wool in Kent by Mr. Nottidge, in the spring.

South Down. Marsh.				South Down. Marsh.				South Down. Marsh.						
Per lb.		Per lb.		Per lb.		Per lb.		Per lb.		Per lb.				
s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.			
1792...	1	2	...0	11½	1805...	1	9	...1	4	1817...	1	7	..1	3
1793...	0	11½	...0	9½	1806...	1	11	..1	2½	1818...	2	0	...2	0
1794 ..	1	0	...0	9½	1807...	1	10	...1	2	1819...	2	0	...1	3
1795...	1	3	...0	10	1808...	1	9	...1	0	1820...	1	5	...1	4
1796...	1	4	...0	9½	1809...	2	1	..1	3	1821...	1	2½	...1	1
1797...	1	3½	...0	9½	1810...	2	8	...1	4	1822...	1	1	...0	11
1798...	1	2½	..0	9½	1811...	1	9	...1	1	1823...	1	2½	...1	0
1799...	1	7	...1	0	1812...	1	6½	..1	1½	1824 ..	1	0	...1	1
1800...	1	5	..1	0½	1813...	1	7½	...1	3	1825 ..	1	4	...1	4
1801...	1	5½	...1	0½	1814...	2	0½	...1	9	1826...	0	10	...0	11
1802...	1	7	...1	2	1815...	2	1	...1	10	1827...	0	9	...0	10½
1803 ..	1	7½	...1	1½	1816...	1	6	...1	3	1828...	0	9	...0	11½
1804 ..	1	9	...1	3										

In the year 1800 a *prime Leicester* skin in the wool s. d.
weighed 20lb., the wool of which was 8½lb., the pelt
13½lb.; the carcase, I suppose, might weigh 14
stone; the skin was worth 7 0

<i>A middling Lincoln</i> skin—the wool was 8lb., the pelt 9lb., the carcase 12 stone, the skin.....	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
	5	8
<i>A Hereford</i> skin—the wool was 5lb., the pelt 10lb., the carcase 14 stone, the skin.....	6	6
<i>A South Down</i> skin—the wool 3½lbs., the pelt 7½lbs., the carcase 10 stone, the skin.....	5	4
<i>A Norfolk</i> skin—wool 3lb., pelt 7lb., carcase 8 stone, the skin.....	4	9
Shortlings.....	1	2
Skin of wool-fells	1	0

An account of the wool purchased by Mr. Nottidge, of Mr. Thomas Lidbetter, of Bramber, Sussex:—

Year.	Tods.	lbs.	Price.	Year.	Tods.	lbs.	Price.
			<i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>				<i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>
1793-4	132...	31...	1½ per lb.	1809	.. 75...	13...3	0 per lb.
1795	... 64...	14...	6 „	1810	... 76...	12...2	0 „
1796	... 63...	23...	6½ „	1811	... 74...	26...1	9¾ „
1797	... 66..	26...	3½ „	1812	... 73...	9...1	10½ „
1798	... 64...	26...	4½ „	1813	... 64...	13...1	11¼ „
1799	... 73...	29...	9¾ „	1814	... 62...	30...2	2¼ „
1800	... 71...	0 ..1	7½ „	1815	... 59..	19...2	0 „
1801	... 81...	11...1	8½ „	1816	... 55...	17...1	6 „
1802	... 83...	28...1	9½ „	1817	... 56...	13...2	0 „
1803	... 65...	12...1	8¼ „	1818	... 62...	22...2	7¼ „
1804	... 66...	2 ..1	10¾ „	1819	} 123...	12...1	5¼ „
1805	... 67 ..	11...2	6 „	1820			
1806	... 73...	9...2	0 „	1826	} 116...	11...0	9½ „
1807	... 77...	17...1	10¼ „	1827			
1808	... 74...	5 ..1	11¼ „				

Number of fleeces,.....1,335,.....11½d. per tod.

PRICES GIVEN FOR SUSSEX FLEECES,—

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>		<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1821.....	40	0 per tod.	1824.....	41	4 per tod.
1822.....	42	8 ditto.	1825.....		did not buy.
1823.....	42	0 ditto.			

Mr. ROBERT JOWITT.—I am aware of a depression in the price of South Down wool of 50 per cent.,—from 1s. 6d. to 9d. per lb. I do not think the importation of foreign wool has reduced the price of British wool,—for this reason, that looking to the quality of British wool, and comparing it with the price of almost every other commodity and raw material, I do not consider that it is much depressed in price. I consider

that Down wool, at the present price, is not at a very depressed price ; considering the deterioration, the importation of foreign wool may have had some effect.

Mr. JOHN SUTCLIFFE, of Huddersfield.—The following is a table of the prices I have given for Scotch from 1797 to 1827 :—

Year.	Cheviot. White & Laid High- 24lb. land, 48lb.*			Year.	Cheviot. White & Laid High- 24lb. land, 48lb.*			Year.	Cheviot. White & Laid High- 24lb. land, 48lb.*		
	s.	d.	s.		s.	d.	s.		s.	d.	s.
1797 ...	13	6	—	1808 ...	29	0	17	1819 ...	23	0	20
1798 ...	15	6	—	1809 ...	35	0	18	1820 ...	20	0	20
1799 ...	22	6	—	1810 ...	42	0	20	1821 ...	17	0	18
1800 ...	24	6	—	1811 ...	24	0	20	1822 ...	14	0	12
1801 ...	26	6	15	1812 ...	26	0	18	1823 ...	12	0	11
1802 ...	25	6	16	1813 ...	25	0	20	1824 ...	12	6	13
1803 ...	23	6	16	1814 ...	32	0	22	1825 ...	19	6	20
1804 ...	25	0	14	1815 ...	36	0	31	1826 ...	11	9	12
1805 ...	31	0	16	1816 ...	19	0	16	1827 ...	12	0	13
1806 ...	35	0	16	1817 ...	21	0	19				
1807 ...	31	6	—	1818 ...	35	0	40				

Mr. JAMES FISON delivered the following statement, showing the comparative weight of the different sorts produced from (15 tods) 420lbs. of clothing wool grown in Norfolk, with relative prices of qualities :—

	1793.	1808	1818	1827	price in	
		&	&	&	sorts.	
	1809.	1819.	1828.	1828.		
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	s.	d.
Prime.....	200 ...	144 ...	56 ...	14 ...	1	3 per lb.
Choice and choice grey	96 ...	80 ...	48 ...	24 ...	1	0 „
Super and middle grey	64 ...	80 ...	96 ...	56 ...	0	10½ „
Head, Downright & Third						
Grey	52 ...	104 ...	168 ...	152 ...	0	0 „
Seconds.....	— ...	— ...	20 ...	80 ...	0	9 „
Abb	— ...	— ...	10 ...	48 ...	0	7½ „
Bretch, &c.....	— ...	— ...	2 ...	6 ...	0	5 „
Livery.....	— ...	— ...	8 ...	24 ...	0	6¼ „
Waste	8 ...	12 ...	12 ...	16 ...	0	0 „
	420	420	420	420		

Calculating the weight of sorts produced at each of the

• Or double stone, one stone white, one stone laid.

above periods at the present prices of sorts, the result will show, that if our clothing wool was equal in quality to the growth of 1793,—

	s.	d.	
It would make	1	0½	per lb.
If equal to the growth of 1808 and 1809...	0	11¾	„
If equal to the growth of 1818 and 1819...	0	10¼	„
Actual value in 1827 and 1828	0	8¾	„

It thus appears that the difference in quality between 1793 and 1827, is equal to 3¾d. per lb.

Prices of Clothing Wool in Norfolk from June 1808, to June 1828.

	s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.			
1808-9	1	11½	per lb.	1815-16	2	0	per lb.	1822-23	1	0	per lb.
1809-10	2	6	„	1816-17	1	6	„	1823-24	1	0	„
1810-11	2	4	„	1817-18	1	7½	„	1824-25	1	1	„
1811-12	1	9½	„	1818-19	2	6	„	1825-26	1	1	„
1812-13	2	3	„	1819-20	1	6	„	1826-27	0	8½	„
1813-14	2	1	„	1820-21	1	2½	„	1827-28	0	8	„
1814-15	2	2	„	1821-22	1	0½	„				

Mr. THOMAS COOK.—The description of wool we use is the refuse of all low kinds of British long, or combing wool, an article left by the combers called noyls, the tender wool not strong enough for combing purposes, skin wool, as well as the breech and lower sorts of South Down wool. These coarse wools are so exorbitantly high in reference to finer English wools, that we are trying if we cannot make the better sorts of British wool answer for our trade, which for light and very fine goods it may; we never before used the Sussex and Norfolk wools for blankets. We could not give the present price for the coarse English wool, and use other wool in our manufactures: the breech of fine wool is worth 6½d. or 7d. per lb., and the wool in the fleece together is worth only 8¾d., which must show how dear coarse wool is in comparison with the finer sorts. In the years 1813 and 1814 the price of finer British wools was much higher; but then there was a trade to America, and our Government were very large customers to us in Yorkshire, when so many army cloths went to the continent, and for the use of our own Government. Coarse wool was a great deal lower, and finer British wool a great deal higher, in relation to each other. At that time, too, we were giving 1s. 3½d. for our wool, and the Americans were selling their cottons at 1s. 7½d. per lb., which they are now selling at 6¾d. per lb.

A TABLE OF THE PRICES OF WOOL, AND FOREIGN WOOL IMPORTED.

Year.	Laid High- land.	White High- land.	Che- viot.	Russia.	Best Broad Head.	Noyls.	Good Abbs.	Locks.
	£ lb. d.	£ lb. d.	£ lb. d.	£ lb. d.	£ lb. d.	£ lb. d.	£ lb. d.	£ lb. d.
1809	4½	6	14	...	...	...	...	...
1810	5	6	22½	...	...	...	...	...
1811	4½	5½	9	...	...	...	...	...
1812	4½	5½	16½	...	...	11½	11½	7½
1813	5½	6½	12	9½	...	13	12½	6½
1814	8½	10	16½	...	...	15	16½	14½
1815	10	11	19	...	...	...	...	...
1816	7	8	19	...	...	12	13½	...
1817	4½	5½	9	8	...	12½	14½	9
1818	10	12	14½	15	15	18½	...	■
1819	6	7	12	12	13	13	...	...
1820	5½	6½	10½	9	12	13½	14½	7½
1821	4½	6½	9½	7½	11	11½	12½	7½
1822	3½	5	9	7	9	9½	10½	7½
1823	3	4½	6½	6½	9	7½	9½	6
1824	3½	4½	6½	...	9	7½	9½	6
1825	6	7½	10	8½	11½	12	18	7
1826	3½	4½	6½	6½	8	8½	9½	...
1827	3½	4½	6½	6½	7½	9½	9	5
1828	3½	4½	5	8½	7½	7½	■	...

A TABLE OF COTTON IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM—PRICE OF UPLAND COTTON—AND PRICE OF MUTTON.

Year.	Cotton Im- ported.	Price of Upland Cotton.	Price of Mutton.	Year.	Cotton Im- ported.	Price of Upland Cotton.	Price of Mutton.
	Bags.	d. £ lb. d.	d. d.		Bags.	d. £ lb. d.	d. d.
1808	165,150	.....	.....	1819	547,070	12½ to 14	7½ to 8½
1809	434,500	20 to 21½	7 to 8	1820	570,150	8½ to 10½	6 to 8
1810	560,000	11½ to 15	8 to 9	1821	488,100	8 to 10½	4 to 6½
1811	321,250	13½ to 15½	8½	1822	533,150	6½ to 8½	4½ to 8
1812	235,830	21½ to 23½	8½	1823	668,400	7½ to 9½	4 to 6
1813	243,013	27 to 30	9 to 10	1824	541,000	8½ to 10½	6½
1814	284,500	22 to 23½	9 to 10	1825	510,400	6½ to 9½	8 to 8½
1815	372,000	14½ to 18	8	1826	560,200	6½ to 7½	6½ to 8
1816	572,000	17½ to 20½	7	1827	892,600	5 to 6½	5½ to 8
1817	477,160	18½ to 22½	6½	1828			7
1818	665,800	17 to 19½	8				

The foregoing tables were taken from Mr. Cook's own knowledge, except what he received from Messrs. Maxwell, of Liverpool, relative to cotton. The prices are the average of the year, and the prices of mutton that which he had himself given to the butcher for family consumption.

Mr. JOHN BROOKE, Dewsbury.—We import foreign wool worth 4d. per lb., we have paid 6½d. per lb. for Russian wool: fifteen years ago we paid 14½d. for the same description of Russian wool.

Relative prices of English and Russian wool:—

	England.	Russia.
1812	7¼d. to 7¾d.	0d.
1813	8½ to 12½	9½
1827	9 to 0	6½

Short English wool is now at a lower price than English long wool. The pound of wool which costs 6d., is worth 15d. when manufactured into blankets.

Mr. GERVASE WALKER.—The fluctuation between the extreme prices of fine foreign wool, and the price of superfine cloth, has been,—cloth from 26s. to 18s. per yard, and fine foreign wool from 7s. to 5s. per lb.

Mr. WILLIAM IRELAND.—I do not consider that the enormous importation of foreign has had a tendency to reduce the price of British wool, because the importation of foreign wool has only come into this country for the express purpose of being used. It could not be imported for use before the duty was taken off; a friend of mine had some he could not sell at all, but he sold when the duty was taken off.

Average Prices given for German and Spanish wools, washed and sorted.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
1823 average	2	0			per lb.	1826 average	1	7	to 1 8
1824 do.	1	9	to 1	10	„	1827 do.	—	—	to 1 6
1825 do.	2	0	to 2	1	„	1828 do.	1	3	to 1 4

“ 4. *The past and present state of agriculture in light and upland soils, as dependant upon the folding system, and the use of particular breeds of sheep.*”

Mr. WILLIAM PINKNEY, Salisbury Plain.—Land such as I occupy could not be maintained in cultivation without the aid

of sheep. I generally fold my sheep on the land, having no other manure but half-made dung, which we call "muck in the yard." The sheep are our principal dependance for supporting our crops; indeed, I could not occupy my farm without a flock. The description of land which I occupy extends for many miles in every direction around me. Flocks have generally increased in my neighbourhood from raising artificial food. In the last twenty-five years, I should say my flock has increased 400, viz. from 1100 to 1500: others may not have increased in the same proportion.

Mr. JOHN ELLMAN, Jun., (Sussex).—I do not consider it possible for the light lands upon the Downs to be kept in cultivation without flocks. I could not keep the farm I now hold without sheep. The growers of wool must continue to supply the manufacturers even at the present price; it stands on a totally different footing from corn. I think with respect to corn, however bad the remedy, that would remedy itself so as to bring the supply to the demand, but on the South Downs the wool must be grown, let the price be what it will.

Mr. GEORGE WEBB HALL, (Gloucestershire).—The keeping of flocks of sheep is so intimately connected with the best cultivation of this country, and in connection with the crops under which the systems of farming are carried on, it is so much interwoven with the general system of husbandry, that I think it creates a great deal of employment for labourers, that would be diminished were the cultivation altered. My present flock is 400 of the pure merino: before we had merino, my father had one of the finest Leicester flocks in the country; at the time he exchanged his flock, he considered they would pay us as much in wool, as the other in wool and carcase too. Hopes were held out at the time to the growers of fine wool; they were called upon by government to extend the production of fine wool, and by the special encouragement of his late Majesty. Having invested a considerable sum of money in merino sheep, I should certainly continue, with the hope of some protection from the legislature; we have invested £5000 at least in merino sheep; it would be almost a total loss to go back to some other species. The merino flock under proper management will yield a fair return for mutton as well as wool: as mutton they are preferred by

many to any sheep ; they are the finest mutton in the world ; when made fat they are the finest mutton in the country : they are a hardy sheep, and undergo the regular folding system of the country almost as well as any other.

Mr. FRANCIS HALE, Alringham, Suffolk.—The description of land I occupy could not be kept in cultivation without the aid of sheep. I have endeavoured to increase the size of my sheep,—to make the carcase heavier, by a particular selection of rams, and by the increase of food.

Mr. HENRY KING, Chilmark, Wiltshire.—The size of my farm is about 4000 acres. I clip annually about 6500 South Down sheep : the number of sheep have not increased in my neighbourhood within the last five years ; such lands as I occupy cannot be kept in cultivation without the aid of sheep.

Mr. JOHN WOOLLEDGE, near Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, delivered the following statement of the loss sustained by the tenants upon one estate in the vicinity of Bury St. Edmunds, from a depreciation of 6d. per lb. in the price of wool, and the consequent reduction in the value of lambs.—

	£.	s.	d.
Loss upon 22,587 lbs. wool at 6d. per lb.	564	13	7
Ditto 4,790 lambs, at 1s. 6d. per head	359	5	0
Total	£923	18	7

The above estate contains 8890 acres, let to tenants, and consists principally of poor sandy and gravelly land, the produce of which in corn is very precarious, amounting in dry summers to little or nothing. The occupiers, therefore, depend almost entirely upon their flocks of sheep for the payment of their rents and the employment and support of the population. The farms, with one exception, are let upon corn rents, which, when wheat averages 56s. per qr. amount to £4250 per ann : consequently a depreciation of 6d. per lb. in the price of wool inflicts a loss of $21\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. of the rental of the estate. I am of opinion that two-thirds of the counties of Suffolk and Norfolk may be comprehended in the sheep districts, and that they produce two pounds and a half of wool and three-fourths of a lamb to the acre upon an average. I am not aware that there has been any increase of sheep in the neighbourhood within the last five years, but I think the weight of the sheep

has been rather increasing than not. The produce of the land depends materially on the folding system: there is not sufficient straw for manure without the assistance of sheep.

Mr. WILLIAM ILOTT, Abbey Milton, Dorsetshire.—I calculate the annual growth of wool in Dorsetshire at 10,000 packs of 246 lbs. each. It is estimated that Dorsetshire contains 772,000 acres, or 700,000 acres on which sheep are kept and shorn, in greater or less numbers, to the number of 800,000 sheep, or one sheep and a seventh per acre. A considerable part of the county of Dorset is composed of light lands, and can only be kept in tillage by the aid of sheep.

C. C. WESTERN, Esq.—It is utterly impossible that the Down districts can be cultivated to advantage without sheep. We never fold our merino or other sheep, the land is too wet.

LORD NAPIER.—The Cheviot sheep is a hardier breed than the South Down. I have tried South Down sheep on our hills, and they cannot climb the hills so well as the Cheviot. If we had not sheep upon our lands, it would become the habitation of foxes and snipes, and return to waste; it would produce nothing but grouse and wild game of different sorts.

“5. The change which is alleged to have taken place in the weight of the carcase of the sheep, in the quality of the fleece, and in its usefulness for the purposes of manufacture.”

Mr. WILLIAM PINKNEY, Salisbury Plain.—I do not think the quality of wool from our South Down sheep has deteriorated within the last four or five years. It is generally considered that our wool, since the introduction of South Down sheep, is of a finer description than that grown upon the Wiltshire sheep, which preceded them, and which were larger; we could not keep so many Wiltshire sheep on the same quantity of land.

Mr. JOHN ELLMAN, Jun.—I think the quality of the wool from our South Down flock is as good as it was six years ago; each sheep produces upon the average about three pounds of wool. I keep my sheep better than they were kept before, and I fatten my sheep now, which I did not before, and of course the fleeces are heavier. The growth of wool in Sussex is reckoned at 2,400,000 lbs.

LORD NAPIER, Selkirk.—I am sure that within the last twenty years the wool produced in Ettrick Forest has improved in quantity and quality very much indeed. I do not speak only of my own farms, but of an immense district of country of the same description. I should not say for the last three or four years particularly ; but from the beginning of the last war in 1803, the spirit of improvement was so great, that the black-faced sheep, which bore a very inferior sort of wool—only about half the value of the Cheviot—was put out, and the race of Cheviot that came in were not so good as those that came from the Cheviot Hills ; but they have been since constantly improving every year, and great pains are taking every year to improve the breed, and at great expense.

Mr. RICHARD HEALY, Lincolnshire.—The average weight of the fleece in Lincolnshire is $6\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. I have no means of knowing whether the quantity produced has increased in the last ten years or not. My own opinion is, that the wool grown in Lincolnshire and Leicestershire is decreasing in quality and in quantity. A few years ago, in that portion of Lincolnshire which is called the Marshes, nearly the whole of the persons occupying those lands were graziers. They purchased in April one-year-old sheep, and sheared those sheep, first hogs, second shearlings, third two shears : consequently they took three fleeces of wool from those sheep ; the wool of those sheep was very heavy, it was a great source of profit ; since the peace it became lower. Though that practice has continued to a great degree, the more general practice is to buy them hogs, and clip them twice instead of three times ; consequently the sheep come to market much earlier than they did. In other parts of Lincolnshire, and in the midland counties, among graziers, it was the practice to purchase hogs, or to breed them, and to clip those hogs of that age at two years, and then to send them to market. Now the practice is very materially discontinued, for there are very few persons but dispose of their two-shear sheep at a much earlier age. There is another practice which tends to decrease both the quantity and quality of wool,—that practice is at present increasing, and it has entirely taken place within these three or four years,—of using more ewes and

breeding more lambs, and of sending those lambs to the London market, instead of keeping them to be either hogs or shearlings; consequently the quantity of hog wool, which is the most valuable, and the wether wool, which is the next best, is very much diminished. Three or four years ago, in the county of Lincoln, such a thing was unknown; my own flock of lambs last year amounted to 233; 200 of which I sent to the London market, which I formerly used to keep and clip.

W. F. CAMPBELL, Esq., Argyleshire.—They calculate that the wool should pay the rent, and the carcase pay the expenses of management—the wethers, as they are called, and the crotch ewes—the sheep after they have had a certain number of lambs; but every sheep in a flock of ewes is clipped four times, and the wethers are clipped twice; consequently they calculate that the wool pays the rent, and the sale of the wether pays the expense of management, and the benefit to the farmer. There are ten or twelve fleeces in a couple of 48 lbs., therefore they are about 4 lbs. a fleece; and when wool is selling, as it was last year, at about 3d. or 3½d. per lb., the value of each fleece must be about 11d. or 1s., and that is not all profit to the farmer, because the smearing of the sheep costs sixpence per sheep; most of the houses in Argyleshire and Ardrimercham were taken with the supposition that wool would bring 18s. or 21s. a couple. The Cheviot wool is a finer quality than that of the black-faced sheep.

JOHN ELLMAN, Esq., Sussex.—My flock is considered to be one of the best in England—all South Downs. I do not consider the quality of my wool worse than it was in 1819: it is rather improved in quality than otherwise. Some particular flocks have improved in the quality of their wool by attending to breeding from the finest woolled sheep, and drafting the coarser off. There has been no mixture with merino to my knowledge; I crossed with merino some years ago, but I kept them separate; I have got no blood of merino now.

Mr. HENRY BOYS, Waldershare, Kent.—My flock is the same as Mr. Ellman's South Down sheep; my late father and I have paid Mr. Ellman upwards of £3,000 for the hire of rams and the purchase of ewes, to improve the wool as much as possible. I consider the quality of my wool much better

than it was in 1819. There are not so many sheep kept in our part of the country as in 1819. The breed has been changed from South Down to the Romney Marsh. The South Down now kept are in the hands of country gentlemen, who occupy their own property; but on the uplands that sort of sheep has been changed for the Romney Marsh, to which our poor chalky land is not adapted; but the farmers, from a mistaken notion, have changed the breed. The quality of the Romney Marsh wool is a much longer and coarser staple than South Down wool. The reason the farmers have adopted that plan is, that they had no sale for South Down wool, and wanting capital, they have changed to Romney Marsh, for which they have always a demand at some price; they are increasing the long-woolled sheep, and the South Down are gradually going out. I think the experiment must fail, for wool requires as much cultivation as corn, and upon poor land there is not strength enough to produce an article such as long wool manufacturers require.

Mr. HENRY HUGHES, Blackwell Hall factor.—The English wools have deteriorated in quality within the last twelve or fifteen years, except in certain counties. The county of Wilts, for instance, is an exception of that sort to the South Down sheep; whereas others have kept sheep for the carcase,—the heavier the carcase, the coarser the fleece. The cloth from English wool is, in fact, now unsaleable, while we can get foreign wool to offer at the prices at which we used to get English. We consider the quality of the Wiltshire wool as good as it used to be; it is the only county in England that has kept the quality from deteriorating; it is not so good in Dorsetshire or in Sussex; in Wiltshire they have grown their wool as they used to do.

Mr. THOS. LEGG, woolstapler, Bermondsey.—Within the last twenty-five, or from that to twenty-eight years, from turning to our books, and seeing the weight of the South Down wool progressively from year to year, I have found a difference in quality; there is near three-quarters of a pound difference in the weight of each fleece—increase of weight—which of course produces a wool coarser and stronger in hair; the difference in the quality of the wool is, that it is not so well calculated to make fine cloths as it was formerly—not by

a considerable degree: they have been generally crossing for bigger sheep, and of course have produced a coarser kind of wool and heavier fleeces; but there are parcels of South Down wool now, where they have taken great care of them, that are as good as they ever were.

Mr. GEO. WEBB HALL, Sneed Park, Gloucestershire.—I do not consider merino wools to have deteriorated. I think the wool of the merino sheep has not deteriorated since they first came over, but, on the contrary, that it has improved.

Mr. FRANCIS HALE, Suffolk.—I do not consider that the wool of our flocks has deteriorated in the last four years in quality, but that it has rather improved than not in the last three years. Since I have had experience in South Down wool, I have not observed any deterioration of quality in my own neighbourhood. We have endeavoured to increase the size of our sheep,—to make the carcase heavier by the increase of food.

CHRISTOPHER THOMAS TOWER, Esquire, Essex.—There has certainly been no deterioration in the quality of my own wool in the last five years. The cultivation of the fleece has been so great an object to me, and from the outset I have so carefully extirpated everything of a bad quality, and so cultivated the good, that I am perfectly satisfied it is very materially improved. I can mention, in proof, that, independently of a flock of the pure breed which I have kept distinct from the others, I have for seventeen years incessantly crossed sheep, originally from South Down ewes, with merino rams, and now I am beginning with Saxon rams. I should not say that a general deterioration in the quality of short wool of British breed has taken place in the last five years, but that a substitution of one sort for another has taken place. The quantity of wool that is now applied to comb for the coarser sorts of yarn for the bombasin manufacture at Norwich, and the finer sorts, is so considerable, that the system of topping the lambs' wool has been abandoned by many persons, and everything that could be turned to the purpose of worsted yarn, that is, everything that will measure about three inches, has sale for that purpose. This change began to take place from the year 1820. In order to obtain this wool, the lamb

is not shorn, but the animal remains two years ; but the wool obtained from the ewe and wether remain the same in quality. There has been no increase in short-woolled sheep ; there may have been an increase in long-woolled sheep.

Mr. HENRY KING, Wiltshire.—The quality of South Down wool in my neighbourhood has certainly not deteriorated : on the contrary, it has improved.

Mr. JNO. WOOLLEDGE, Suffolk.—I do not consider the wool sold last year to be worse in quality than it was five years ago, but, on the contrary, rather better than otherwise. I am not aware that there has been any increase in the number of sheep, but I think the weight of the sheep has been rather increasing than not.

Mr. THOS. DUKE, Sussex.—I consider the wool of the Duke of Richmond's flock to be a great deal better than it was, and those of the Duke of Norfolk, and Mr. Huskisson, are no worse than they were formerly ; these are the principal flocks in the west of our county.

Mr. WM. CAUDWELL, Berkshire.—The quality of wool in our neighbourhood has not deteriorated, but I think it has improved within the last few years.

C. C. WESTERN, Esq., Essex.—The quality of merino wool is by no means worse now than it was five years ago. In some parts of the country, the South Down flocks have been crossed by long-woolled sheep ; I have been intimately acquainted with many gentlemen farmers, and farmers on an extensive scale, and I have reason to know,—in Norfolk particularly, and in some other counties,—that it has been the habit to cross South Downs with the new Leicester and other long-woolled sheep : the reason is, that the wool so crossed, though inferior in point of fineness, has a longer staple, and fetches a higher price than even the finest of the South Down fleeces. It becomes a totally different description of wool.

Mr. WM. HANNING, Somersetshire.—The quality of the wool in our neighbourhood is as fine now as it was a few years back. I do not think it has varied within the last ten years : they have changed the character of the sheep, and have got some few of them into South Down sorts, which is a finer quality of wool, and another which is getting into use, the Devon sort, which is a long combing wool. If any change

has taken place, it is from coarse to fine; but we have gone into extremes; some into the South Down sort, and others have gone to sheep, of which the wool approximates towards the Leicester.

Mr. WM. NOTTIDGE, Bermondsey.—As a fellmonger, in the year 1800, I was ordered to make a trial of several different sorts of skins as to their produce. South Down skins, slaughtered in London, when at full maturity, produced about three pounds and a quarter per skin, now they are estimated to produce from four pounds to four pounds and a quarter; I mean, the wool taken from the skin, and we find a corresponding increase in weight, from the farmer's fleeces, generally in Kent and those parts. Where the weight is increased, there is always a less quantity of fine wool, and a larger quantity of coarse. I consider there is a great deal less fine wool grown now than there was twenty years back; but the sheep that are now kept by farmers generally, I consider to be an improved sheep,—improved in size, and in the produce as to quantity, as applicable to carcase, and also more wool, but not of so fine a quality. In sorting wool, in that of the county of Kent, at the time that fine wool bore a good price, we used to make about one-eighth of our best quality of English wool; now we do not set a basket for it at all; the quantity is so small, we do not throw it out, we do not separate it. I have been in the habit for several years of purchasing the fleeces of particular flocks; there is one flock of South Down wool in the county of Sussex, that I have had, I believe, from the year 1792 up to the present time: and in year 1814 the fleeces ran, some few fourteen to the tod, and some few fifteen, and some few sixteen and seventeen. I had some wool last year, and it ran eleven and a half fleeces to the tod all the way through; so that there was an increase in weight of probably one-third, and of course a deterioration in quality; the quantity of coarse wool has greatly increased from that description of sheep. As far as my observation goes, wherever inclosures take place, and the land becomes better cultivated, they keep a better kind of sheep, a larger kind of sheep, and South Down sheep of a good size are always more marketable than of a small size. There are some few South Down flocks now, the wool of which is as

good as ever it was ; but generally they are deteriorated. I have no doubt at all but there is great deterioration in British wool. I consider that from 1800 to 1814 or 1815 the wools were gradually improving, and from that time they have been gradually falling off.

Mr. ROBT. JOWITT, woolstapler, Leeds.—With respect to English South Down wools, I have found a considerable difference in quality within these few years : the fleeces have not been so fine ; the last South Down fleeces I sorted, and which were stated from the customer from whom I had them to be very excellent, were very far inferior to what I had six, eight, or ten years previously from the same party. The manufacturers are now obliged to get foreign wool for what they used to make of fine English wool, partly because English wool is deteriorated, and is not what it used to be, and partly because they find foreign wool suits them better. I consider the deterioration equal to 20 to 25 per cent. since 1813, and $7\frac{1}{2}$ or 10 per cent. since 1823.

Mr. JOHN VARLEY, manufacturer, Stanningley, near Leeds.—In short wools, the quality of British wool is much deteriorated, or got coarser : in long wools they have improved, that is, they give us a shorter staple and finer in hair, because the breed of sheep has been much improved, owing to crossing them with different kinds of rams. By doing so, the farmers are getting more mutton ; they are fattening much sooner ; they are growing a longer staple of wool, that is now more adapted to the present demand. Mutton is the greatest object, because it pays them best. I consider the deterioration of English wool equal to 20 per cent. I mean the fleece generally ; there has not been so great a depreciation in the low qualities of wool as in the finer wools. I attribute the low price of Cheviot wool to deterioration ; it is deteriorated very much in point of hair ; it was formerly the fashion of the day for Cheviot wool to be worn as cloth ; it is not the fashion now. It is not fit to make fine cloths, as it was then. I know it is deteriorated in point of quality, because I have gone myself, and my young man has gone for me to that country, and we gave it up in consequence of its being deteriorated so much ; the wool is grown coarser and longer, and only fit to make low coatings and flushings.

Mr. CHARLES BULL, wool agent, Lewes.—Has been many years conversant with Sussex fleeces, and gave the following result of different farms:—

Fleeces.				Per Tod.		Fleeces.				Per Tod.	
				s.	d.					s.	d.
1803	.....	869	... ..	1	3	1807	.....	814	.....	0	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
1804	.....	658	.....	1	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	1822	.....	654	... ..	0	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
1804	.....	1191	.....	1	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	1826	.....	1212	.....	0	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
1804	.....	1306	.. ..	1	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	1827	.....	1210	.....	0	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
1806	.....	1209	.....	1	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	1823	.....	1147	.....	1	0

Formerly it was used for clothing purposes; now it is impossible to sell it for that manufacture. I account for the deterioration of the quality of South Down wool in several different ways: the farmers have coarse-woolled rams, much heavier than they used to be. They pay attention to the ram that will produce most wool. Seeing that the fluctuations have been very great, and that the coarsest wools remained behind, while the best have been sold off, and have been eventually sold at the same ratio as the finest, then the farmer will very naturally say, Why should I continue my wool fine, when my neighbour sells his for as much as I do myself? The longer and coarser have met with a general and universal sale: the quantity, on the general principle, will beat the quality, and they get more by it. I have seen Mr. Ellman's flock; I consider it has much deteriorated in quality. There are not a great many more sheep in Sussex than there used to be; but I should say that the quantity of wool has increased most decidedly. The wool used to be employed for clothing purposes; now it is used for baizes and flannels in a very large way.

Mr. JOHN SUTCLIFFE, woolstapler, Huddersfield—I consider that British wool, and particularly Sussex wool, is not so good as it used to be. If we go back twenty or thirty years, there was in some flocks nearly as good wool grown as the fine German that now comes into the country. I do not think the English fleece grower thought he was sufficiently remunerated; and he gradually began to make rather a heavier fleece, and to improve the carcase of the sheep. It is exceedingly different to what it used to be; that which has a longer staple, and which will do for combing, gives the better

price. The Cheviot wool is not so good as it was formerly. Before they began the improvement in their sheep, the old stock was rather less; they grew a lighter fleece and much finer wool. Now they have improved the carcase, the fleece is a great deal stronger, and the Cumberland people now buy the lambs from Esdaile Moor, and Moffat, and feed them, and get as much weight in sixteen months as they could with a three year old wether in former times.

Mr. WILLIAM CUNNINGTON, woolstapler, Wiltshire.—Principally purchased South Down wool. Gave the following particulars of South Down wool assorted :—

Flower Farm.	List. lbs.	Wash. lbs.	Abbs. lbs.	Drt. lbs.	Head. lbs.	Super. lbs.	Choice. lbs.	Prime. lbs.	Pick. lbs.
1812.....	2	68	20	11	20	56	202	412	43
1818.....	16	117	70	52	86	160	323	915	170
1822.....	62	95	134	93	288	274	309	665	19
Ayton's.									
1811.....	23	98	41	21	50	131	305	387	127
1820.....	52	106	62	65	145	213	329	468	—
1822.....	102	52	55	57	120	200	272	392	—
Deveriest									
1823.	110	209	353	369	658	614	800	848	16
1827	96	93	397	374	758	956	636	444	—
Nowlson.									
1811.....	—	56	27	10	16	21	95	247	493
1816.....	11	143	49	26	34	98	242	851	112
1821.....	42	104	47	51	79	128	230	444	—
Cross.									
1817.....	23	100	55	67	59	159	386	946	72
1825.....	51	83	190	188	425	322	308	272	8
Powell.									
1815.....	7	112	64	40	67	148	347	875	90
1827.....	52	55	218	94	376	273	411	705	None.

In the year 1815, one of those portions of wool, the gross weight of which was 1,006 lbs., made the best quality in sorting, 60 lbs., and in the year 1827, the same wool grown on the same farm made none of that quality. From the year 1811 till 1822, I lived at Heytesbury, and sold the whole of my wool, or nearly so, to the Frome market, and when I removed to where I now reside, near Pewsey, I sold then the greater proportion of my wool still in Frome; but within the last two years, the greater part has been sent to Rochdale,

Bury, and that district, and it is used principally for flannels, baizes, and goods of that description. I attribute that alteration to the great deterioration of quality, and to the taste of the country; the public will not wear the South Down cloths, they are so very coarse. I attribute the deterioration to the improved system of agriculture. The farmers are in the habit of growing so much more artificial food than formerly, and paying greater attention to the size of their sheep than to the quality of their wool; they have now much larger framed sheep than they had fifteen years ago.

Mr. JAMES FISON, wool dealer, Thetford.—My trade has been chiefly confined to the wool grown in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk. There has been deterioration in the quality of wool: the general weight of the fleece twenty years ago was two pounds to two pounds and a half, and it is now three pounds to three pounds and a half. They are now the South Down breeds; the old Norfolk breed is nearly extinct. Previously to 1812, scarcely any Norfolk and Suffolk wool was used for combing purposes, and now one-half or three-fifths of the whole growth are applied to combing. We estimate the whole growth of Norfolk at 80,000 tods, or about double what it was twenty-five years ago. I account for this increased quantity grown on each sheep, by the additional number of sheep kept, through the improved system of agriculture. We now send our wool principally to Yorkshire and Lancashire, and I believe they are at present applied in making flannels, and, mixed with foreign wool, are made into low cloths. Our wool used to be made into fine cloths, and returned into Norfolk, and used by myself and the agriculturists; we do not get the same cloth now; neither myself nor the farmer would wear it, because of the deterioration of quality. They cannot now make cloth of the wool grown in Norfolk, which will answer the purposes for the common wear of the country: we prefer cloth made of foreign wool; we have acquired a taste for fine cloths, and are too proud to wear the produce of our own soil. In reference to combing wool, I should consider that the quality is rather improved than deteriorated; but with regard to clothing wool, I believe that it has been deteriorated since 1820. I attribute the deterioration of the wool to the different mode of manage-

ment of the sheep,—their being kept better and being made fat earlier for the market : they have increased in size. Some of our most enlightened farmers have kept their eyes on the particular demand which existed for wool, and have endeavoured to adapt their wools to the demand ; the consequence of which has been that we have given them much higher prices. Mr. Coke's flock is a pure South Down flock, with some little mixture of Hampshire Down. I believe he has never crossed with the Leicester. He has made his wool longer. I should think, on the whole, the growth of wool, except on the marsh land, in the county of Norfolk, has doubled within twenty-five years.

Mr. JAMES HUBBARD, wool agent, Leeds.—My customers have complained of the deterioration of British wool within the last eight or ten years, and that deterioration is certainly well-founded, so far as my own judgment goes. Most unquestionably there is a great difference in the finest part of the South Down wool from what there was ten years ago ; that wool, not being now employed for the purpose of making cloth, has been forced down two or three steps in the scale of wool, and it is now used for flannels and baize. Delivered a table of the quantity of sheep's wool produced in England, stating the number of sheep estimated by Mr. Luccock in 1800, and adding thereto the difference of estimated weight of fleece at the present time, 1828. With respect to the difference of weight in the fleece within the last three or four years, I presume there is no increase on the Upland lands, and not any great increase on the Downs ; but there has been an increase on the Down growth of wool generally in the country ; that is diffused over the great surface of the kingdom ; they get into the lower and richer lands, and that naturally forces the carcase. With regard to the Upland wools, I think they may deteriorate in quality without increasing in weight. Take Hampshire for example ; the breed of sheep has become very much changed ; with wool at low prices the breeders have not the same inducement, and do not take the trouble to select the sheep from which they breed, and by not selecting the sheep properly, the wool gets more frothy and open, and in the manufacturing it does not felt and improve so well ; it works more flannelly ; nor is it

so fine in quality, though it may not be heavier in weight. I should think, as a general principle, it is not possible to get a heavier fleece without deteriorating the quality; but it is possible, by the cross of the merino, that it may be done. It is from the peculiar quality of that wool, from being well kept up and maintained, that causes it to be adapted to combing purposes. I weighed a fleece from a flock near Winchester, which was $7\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., and was worth $17\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb., when wool shorter and more tender would not be worth more than 13d. per lb.

Mr. JOHN BROOKE, manufacturer, Honley.—Manufactures principally blue cloths from 7s. to 24s. and 25s. per yard, and also narrow cloths. We used to collect our wool from Sussex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Hampshire, Essex, &c., and used it in the manufacture of those cloths. We ceased to manufacture from English wool entirely in 1823 or 1824, in consequence of the deterioration of the quality; we found it no longer applicable to make cloths of the same quality as we formerly did from English wool. We had a very large connection for the purchase of English wool, and we kept to English wool, I should think, longer than any house in the neighbourhood, in consequence of having our connections; but we found our neighbours were sending out better cloths than we were, not only at the same price, but better manufactured cloth, and we lost our customers. We had the Duke of Norfolk's wool, grown in Norfolk; Mr. Ellman's, and Mr. Ellman, jun's., from Sussex; but they were all deteriorated; the better qualities decreased, and the middle qualities increased most. If British wool was as good as it was fifteen years ago, we should use that instead of foreign wool. Bought Mr. Ellman, junior's, clip from 1817 to 1822, and Mr. Ellman, senior's, clip from 1817 to 1821: the latter clip was—

				Prime.	Choice.	Super.
1817	...	384lbs.	...	77	84	65
1821	...	416lbs.	...	6	32	126

So that the finer qualities have decreased, and the middle and lower qualities have increased. Mr. Ellman, junior's, clip had a similar result.

Mr. JOSEPH SWAINE, manufacturer and merchant, Gomersal, near Leeds.—I conceive that British wool now is not

what British wool was; that the quality is deteriorated; for the low purposes we employ it, and mixed with other wools, we can use it with advantage; but for the manufacture of cloth, it is not so applicable as it was.

Mr. GEORGE GOODMAN, wool factor, Leeds.—Has been in business about twenty-one years, and dealt generally in English wool. My opinion is, that the quality of South Down wool now, as compared with what it was when I began business, has suffered a very great deterioration. I have no hesitation in saying, that if I could find the same wools as we did fourteen or fifteen years back, they would sell for more than they now do by twenty to thirty per cent.; the deterioration is fully equal to that.

Mr. JOHN COGAN FRANCIS, manufacturer of livery cloth, Heytesbury, Wiltshire.—Previous to the year 1825, we were in the habit of making our livery cloths entirely of English wool; that was the first year when English and foreign wool were mixed; since which we have used less English and more foreign wool. We decreased the quantity of English wool because from the coarser quality of it a less number of yards was produced. English wool has altered in quality every year within the last four years. English wool has become coarser in the hair and longer.

Mr. CHARLES WEBB, Blackwell Hall factor, London.—I do not conceive it possible to produce the same article from English wool now as in 1825, on account of the deterioration; I speak of the deterioration from the cloths produced from English wool.

Mr. BENJAMIN GOTT, merchant and manufacturer, Leeds.—I formerly used 150 packs of English wool weekly; the disuse of English wool was gradual, commencing about the year 1819, continuing to 1823 and 1824, about which time I began exclusively to manufacture from foreign wool. The disuse of English wool arose from the quality, and the advantage of using foreign compared with our own. I could not now make an article that would be merchantable at all for the foreign market (that remark equally applies to the home trade) in certain descriptions of cloth, except of foreign wool. I think that the increased quantity of foreign wool, of a quality similar in price to British wool, is so superior in its

nature to British wool for clothing purposes, that, looking back to the time of fifteen years ago, I do not think there was any quantity of fine British wool that would have met the competition with foreign wool at the same price; they are now very different in their qualities, and have different properties.

Mr. THOMAS SHEPPARD, Blackwell Hall factor, London.—For twenty-five years I have sold a large quantity of livery cloths for the use of London, which have been made solely from South Down wools, and very nice cloths they were. In the years 1823 and 1824 I shipped those cloths to the United States to a large extent,—cloth made wholly from South Down wool, which we call the livery cloth of London. The Americans bought very considerably of it. In the following year the same people were with me, but said they would not bear the competition of their market, and that they could not take them again; that they must have finer goods, and from that time they have had none of them; they had large quantities in the years 1823 and 1824. Those trials influenced their minds and determination that they were not fine enough. They were the best from the South Down wools generally speaking. I admit there are some fine flocks of South Down wool, but we could not make them finer in any quantity, and the thing was abandoned; and they took altogether mixed or foreign from me immediately afterwards. In the middle of the year 1826, we wanted particularly wools of this kind for articles of livery and super cloth. I saw the samples of the best South Downs that could be got; they were so inferior to what they had formerly been, and bore so little comparison with the foreign wools at very reduced prices then in the market, that we were under the necessity of purchasing foreign wools. From my own experience,—and I have had a good deal of cloth made from South Down wool, and from one of the best manufactories in England,—we cannot sell it, it is so inferior to what it was years ago, when it was in estimation: it has lost its ground from year to year, and at this time it is considered so inferior to cloth of mixed wool, that it would be ruinous to pursue the manufacture of it. I have no doubt but South Down wool is deteriorated in quality; it is a coarser article, the point of weight shows it; the South

Down fleeces are heavier than they were since the year 1810, certainly. I conceive that as the weight has increased, the quality must be deteriorated. I was some years ago very deeply interested about merino sheep, and my brother also; he had the largest and most prosperous flock in the kingdom, and he abandoned it, feeling that every year we got the wool worse as the sheep were increasing in size.

Mr. WILLIAM IRELAND, Blackwell Hall factor, London.—Has his manufactory at Chalford, Gloucestershire, and manufactures broad cloths, principally for the East India Company. We have been using English wool for second and livery cloths, but recently they have been so very much lowered in quality, we have not been able to make use of them at all, and have been obliged to make use of low German and low Spanish wools for that purpose. We discovered the deterioration previous to the time when the tax was taken off in 1824, and the use of foreign wool became general in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. We have observed the deterioration for the last seven years; the breeds have been crossed. I recollect giving 2s. 6d. per lb. for Dean Forest Down wools to make white second cloths. We were at that time very much engaged in that trade; we must have them free from black hairs. That is an article we cannot get at any price now; it is not to be procured in the kingdom at all. We discovered that British wool was deteriorated in quality before the existence of the sixpenny duty. I have been twenty-three years in business altogether, and it has been deteriorating in quality for the last seven or eight years particularly. I have had my attention very much drawn to that subject for several years, having purchased for my partners every bag of wool they used, at one time. Herefordshire wool has not deteriorated quite so much, but they have been crossing the breeds, and we do not get the same wool we used to get.

CHAPTER VI.

1828.

6th Head. The various uses of Long and Short Wool—7. Application of Short Wool to Combing purposes—8. Export and Import of Woollens—9. Effect of Duties in this and Foreign Countries on Wool, &c.—10. Proportion of Home and Foreign Trade in Woollens—11. Change which has taken place in Fineness of Cloth—12. Past and present State and Value of Cloth made solely from British Wool, and of Cloth mixed with Foreign Wool—13. Cloths made wholly of Foreign Wool—14. Effect of Cotton on Woollen Manufacture—15. Woollen Rags and their Application—16. Wools of Australia.—Subjects not alluded to in the Committee of Lords :—1. Quantity of Wool grown in the United Kingdom—2. Exportation of British Wool—3. Qualities of Foreign Wool—4. Qualities of British and Irish Wool—5. Cost of Manufacture—6. Former and Present State of Woollen Manufacture in Great Britain—7. Former and Present State of Woollen Manufacture in Foreign Countries, and their Means of Competing with British Manufactures.

“ 6. *The various uses of long and short wool.*”

MR. J. SUTCLIFFE, woolstapler, Huddersfield.—South Down wool was formerly applied for making cloth for home consumption regularly, for the clothing of servants, &c.; it was also used for army clothing. It is now no longer used for those purposes, it makes a furzy, soft, hairy piece; it has not that fastness in it that foreign wool has; it makes coarser cloth than it used to do. Scotch wool was used fourteen years ago in cloth that went to America; the better kind of Scotch wool was used for the home trade, in making narrow plains; it is now gone a step lower, and is used for low goods that are exported; so that English wool has partly taken its place. Scotch wool comes in with the very lowest Danish and Iceland.

MR. JOHN VARLEY, manufacturer and merchant, Stanningley.—Army cloths are made of sorted wool, principally Down

fleeces, all British ; I do not know that there is any foreign wool used in it at all. Sergeants' cloth is of a better quality, out of the same fleece, with a mixture of foreign wool with it, according to the proportion that we may think the quality of the English wool requires to make it mill and dress better.

Mr. JACOB TWEEDALE, flannel manufacturer, Rochdale.—The consumption of English wool in our manufacture, and in the flannel and baize trade, has increased rapidly for some time past ; it commenced soon after the panic in 1825 ; it must now be nearly doubled, and has a prospect of continuance ; we formerly used short skin-wool ; we now use part skin-wool and part South Down ; there is greater facility in breaking these wools for use now than formerly.

Mr. GEO. GOODMAN, wool factor, Leeds.—Worsted yarn is entirely manufactured from long wool ; it is an increasing trade.

Mr. WM. CUNNINGTON, woolstapler, Wiltshire.—There is not a great quantity of South Down wool used for the stuff trade ; a small portion of it will do,—what are called tegs, the first fleece that is shorn.

“7. The application of short wool to the purpose of combing.”

Mr. WM. NOTTIDGE, woolstapler, Bermondsey.—There is a considerable quantity picked out now from South Down fleeces that will comb, which formerly never used to be the case. From the change which has taken place in the breed of sheep, there is more combing wool ; and from improvements in machinery, they are enabled to comb wools of a shorter description.

Mr. ROBT. JOWITT, woolstapler, Leeds.—When the lamb has not been shorn, the fleece taken off the succeeding summer is called hogget, or teg wool. A considerable portion of that is now used for combing purposes, which used not to be ; but in consequence of the improvements in machinery, they are enabled to use wool of a much shorter staple than they used to do. When I first knew the wool trade in Norfolk, there was very little wool applied to combing purposes ; but now there is a very great deal of it ; the great bulk of it is so.

Mr. J. HUBBARD, woolstapler, Leeds.—South Down wool has never till of late years been applied to combing purposes. Within the last ten years there has been such a great improvement in machinery, adapted to the shorter staple, that they can now comb wool which they never thought of combing ten years ago, and that is the reason why Mr. Luccock in his tables gives so large a proportion of the wool of the kingdom as clothing wool. A great deal of the wool which he took at that period as clothing wool, would now be used as combing wool.

Mr. GEO. GOODMAN, wool factor, Leeds.—Scarcely any South Down wool is now used for making cloth, except when it is mixed with foreign wool. A considerable quantity is now used about Rochdale for flannels, and about Huddersfield for cords and other fancy goods. The improvement in machinery in the present day enables the manufacturer to use wool of much shorter growth for combing purposes, and the use of South Down wool for that purpose has been gradually gaining ground for the last few years.

“ 8. *The export and import of woollen cloths.*”

Mr. J. SWAINE, merchant and manufacturer, Gomersal.—I manufacture coatings and duffields for exportation, as well as cloth from 3s. to 5s. 6d. per yard; we send them to Holland and Flanders; we experience great competition from foreign manufacturers in those articles.

Mr. JAMES BISCHOFF, merchant, London.—Cloths made in England from foreign wool are, I think, quite as good as foreign cloths. Superfine cloths are exported to South America, North America, and some of late have gone to Germany and other markets. Cloths of 10s. per yard and under are shipped to every part of the world, where they are not prevented by duties; the duties in the United States of America have an injurious effect on our manufactures. Flannels are sent to Spain, Portugal, and to the United States of America. Stuffs are exported to Germany and to almost all other parts of the world. I sold foreign cloth in this market for South America, and shipped others to Gibraltar, during the tax on the importation of foreign wool.

“9. The effect of duties, in this and in foreign countries, on wool and on woollen manufactures.”

WILLIAM PINKNEY, farmer, Wiltshire.—I attribute the great depression in the price of wool to the influx of wool from abroad, which has deprived us of the market; the manufacturers purchase that, instead of coming to us for our wool. There was always a better demand for our wool, before the duty on foreign wool was considerably decreased.

Mr. JOHN ELLMAN, Jun., farmer, Sussex.—I am told by the woolstaplers, indeed I have seen letters from the North, saying, that the fall in price, and the difficulty of sale of wool, is in consequence of the immense import of foreign wool. I wish the same tax on the importation of wool to be imposed in England that is paid in France—33 per cent. I have no doubt but an increase of duty on foreign wool would considerably increase the consumption, and raise the price of South Down wool. If the effect of the duty would raise the price, and prevent ready sale abroad, the home sale would be so much increased, that I think it would amply make amends for the loss of any foreign sale.

LORD NAPIER, North of Scotland.—I have no doubt but that an increase of duty on foreign wool would tend materially to raise the price of Cheviot wool, so long as the exclusion of foreign wool did not go to allow foreigners to undersell our manufacturers in foreign markets, because, in order to export cloth at a remunerating price to the manufacturers, we must have a hold on the foreign market.

Mr. RICHARD HEALY, Lincolnshire.—Looking to the price of British wool during the time that the high duty was imposed, I think the price of British wool would have been lower if there had not been that duty. I am not competent to inform the committee whether the wools of British growth would be of the quality and nature to enable the manufacturer to supply the foreign demand, nor am I acquainted with the description of manufactured goods that are in demand for exportation.

Mr. JOHN ELLMAN, Sussex.—In the years 1821, 1822, and 1823, when the duty was on the importation of foreign wool, the price of South Down wool was 1s. 6d. per lb., considerably higher in proportion than the price of corn; but since

the duty was taken off, it has borne a much lower relative proportion than corn. The importation of foreign wool, which took place during the duty of sixpence per lb., was not such as to injure the growth of the South Down wool; the South Down wool was all purchased at that time; there was none left in the hands of the farmers. There is no doubt a sixpenny duty on the import would be of use in keeping out a great portion of foreign wool, and it must have the effect also of increasing the price of the home growth.

Mr. H. HUGHES, wool-broker, London.—As respects our export trade, certainly the duty of sixpence per lb. was detrimental, for before that duty we had enough to do to compete with the North American merchants. It was extraordinary that when the duty was taken off, wool rose in price. Other countries are making rapid strides to compete with us, particularly North America. Within the last twelve months there have been upwards of 5,000 bags of foreign wool shipped from the port of London alone to that country, for the purpose of being manufactured; that is, in my opinion, a loss to this country of the labouring part of the manufacture. They are now making very rapid strides, and I have no hesitation in believing, that, in a very few years, they will be independent of us for coats, as they now are for hats. If a duty was put of fourpence per lb. on foreign wool, as they depend so much on England for their market, I have no doubt, myself, that fourpence per lb. would eventually go out of the pockets of the grower in Germany; for what else could they do with it if they had not a market to send it to. My opinion is, that the wool growers in Germany would not go on increasing their flocks as they do at present, but that they would lessen them. I do not conceive it would increase the manufacture of foreign goods in foreign countries, but there would be less wool grown. In case a duty were put on wool in this country and no bounty allowed, it would induce the foreign manufacturer to purchase those wools which we are now purchasing, and give him an advantage abroad. I conceive South Down wool at present is ninepence per lb.; as to German wool of the like quality, I conceive fourpence per lb. would bring them to an equality as nearly as possible: if that tax was placed on foreign wool, it would perhaps shut out that wool from the

English market, and the manufacturer would of course have recourse to the South Down wool. The operation of that tax would be, in the first place, to increase the price at which the English manufacturer would make his cloth, and, in the next place, to lower the price at which the foreign manufacturer would make his; and without a bounty, the English manufacturer would have no chance to compete with the foreigner. I am decidedly of opinion that a tax on the importation of foreign wool, without a bounty on the exportation of woollen manufactures, would be the ruin of our manufactures. Supposing we exclude foreign wool, I very much doubt if articles made from British wool would sell abroad; but, notwithstanding, I am of opinion that an additional duty on foreign wool would enable the grower of English wool to get a remunerating price for his article.

Mr. THOS. LEGG, woolstapler, Bermondsey.—I think an *ad valorem* duty on the importation of foreign wool, would enable the growers in this country to find a market for their wools. It might injure the profits of the manufacturers, and might have some influence by making them less able to compete with foreign manufacturers, but would not hurt them in the home market. I am of opinion that if the duty went to no great extent, the principal of the wools would come here notwithstanding. I should state what I conceive would meet the case :—

On wool not more than 6d. per lb., a duty of 1d. per lb.			
Do.	6d. to 9d.	do.	1½d. per lb.
Do.	9d. to 1s.	do.	2d. per lb.
Do.	1s. to 1s. 6d.	do.	6d. per lb.

I think that rate of duty would exactly protect the growers of South Down wool that are most suffering, because they cannot sell their wools at a remunerating price, and the wool at 1s. to 1s. 6d. per lb. comes exactly in competition with South Down wool. I think that would induce the manufacturers again to use the South Down wool, where they did use them before: the manufacturer is better prepared to say if it would injure him in the foreign market.

Mr. STEWART DONALDSON, merchant, London.—Almost exclusively engaged in the trade with New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land. I conceive that a duty on the importa-

tion of European wool would be beneficial to Van Diemen's Land. A duty laid on the wools imported from Van Diemen's land, in the present state of the colonies, and till they have arrived at the degree of fineness to which I think they will arrive, would have a very injurious effect.

CHRISTOPHER THOMAS TOWER, Esq., Essex.—I am so clearly convinced, from the result of my own inquiries, that this country is unable to produce any considerable quantity of the finest description of wool requisite for our manufactures, that I should be most unwilling to advocate the principle of restricting, whether by tax or otherwise, foreign supplies, could it not be effected with safety to both interests by imposing a similar drawback on the amount of the proceeds of the tax on the export of cloth. I conceive a duty of sixpence per lb. will never exclude the better qualities of foreign wool, but would keep out all the low German wools below 1s. per lb. They are wools this country does not require.

Mr. THOMAS EBSWORTH, wool-broker, London.—I think a duty on the importation of foreign wool would not be injurious to the manufacturing interests; I think it would be the means of keeping the wool market steady, and there would not be the fluctuations there have been within the last few years. I think the market might at this time be supplied with a sufficient quantity of wool, and with a greater degree of regularity and steadiness, with a duty on the import than without one; that was the case when the late duty was in force. I think no injurious effect arose from that duty. If a duty of sixpence per lb. was imposed on the importation of wool, I think there should be a drawback of fifteen per cent. on all cloths exported above ten shillings per yard. I think such a system would be a means of bringing the clothing wools, generally denominated South Down wools, into use. I am not a sufficient manufacturer to say whether that would have the effect of making the manufactured article inferior in point of quality. The object of the duty is to prevent the manufacturer from using foreign wool.

Mr. THOMAS DUKE, farmer, Sussex.—I am of opinion that a duty on the importation of foreign wool would assist the English wool grower in his prices. There was a great and general depression in the price of wool, and all other agri-

cultural produce, during the time of the sixpenny duty on the importation of wool.

C. C. WESTERN, Esq., M. P., Essex.—I think a duty of sixpence per lb. on the importation of foreign wool would enable the flock master to get a better price for his wool, by shutting out a great deal of inferior foreign wools, which compete more immediately with British wool.

Mr. WILLIAM NOTTIDGE, Bermondsey, woolstapler.—I am not aware that the duty of 6d. per lb., which was laid on foreign wool, induced the manufacturers to purchase British wool; it had the effect of stopping the sale of coarse wool. From the account I received from others, it appeared, that not being enabled to get the low-priced foreign wools, on account of the duty, to mix with English, they would not use our English wools. I do not conceive that if the duty was again laid on, the price of English fine wools would rise: I think the manufacturers would continue to use the fine foreign wool: they say the superior quality of cloth made from the foreign wool is such, that they could not sell the cloth made of English wool, and that there would be no demand for it, either for exportation or for home consumption.

Mr. JOHN VARLEY, manufacturer, Stanningley, Leeds.—My opinion respecting the imposition of a duty on foreign wool to the amount of sixpence per lb., as bearing on our export trade to foreign countries, is, that if we revert back to the years 1820, 1821, and 1822, I think we could not have a better picture than that. It then reduced the price of wool very low, as well as meat, and I think corn as well,—much lower than it is now: in consequence of which, I presume, the same effects would follow; it would do the same thing again; because, whatever the foreigners can manufacture at in lowness of price, if we cannot manufacture to give them at the same price, or a better article, or a shade lower, they will have their own in preference to ours: the moment the duty was laid on, the trade of the country began to decline: after the speculation had ceased, which it soon did, the duty had the effect of reducing the price of meat and corn along with the wool. I account for it in this way. Whatever the price of the foreign manufacture is, ours must be the same, otherwise we cannot export goods; and at the time the sixpenny

duty was laid on, the foreigners had began to be manufacturers; and as they proceeded and got on in manufacturing, we decreased, in consequence of which they increased, and were increasing up to the time of the repeal of the duty, or taking off the duty of fivepence per lb., because they could manufacture their goods for a much less price than we could, inasmuch as the low priced wool was kept there,—it could not come here, because it was not worth sixpence per lb. The foreigner was using the wool to make low qualities of cloth, from 1½d. to 2d. per lb., while the same wool, or rather inferior wool, was costing us as manufacturers fivepence per lb. in England.

Mr. JOHN SUTCLIFFE, woolstapler, Huddersfield.—The tax upon foreign wool lowered the price of English wool; I think there was not more English wool used by persons in the habit of making cloth after the imposition of the tax in 1819, than there was previously. It did not force into use the low wools of England; we always thought the tax would lower the price of it, and I think so yet. It gave an opportunity to the foreigners; it set the foreigners on the continent to work, by their getting the wools cheaper than we did; they got a footing in America; they furnished Russia on better terms than we could do; and that duty on wool in 1819 did more for the continental manufacturers than all their own power could have done for them, and they have got them now set in a most excellent manner. My own brother is in Breslaw now purchasing wool, and he says the factories are in a great state of perfection. I am of opinion that the imposition of a tax now of sixpence per pound would have the effect of throwing more of the South Down wool out of use, inasmuch as it would prevent the manufacturer from using foreign wool to advantage to himself, which is now mixed with South Down wool, and would make it more difficult for the English manufacturer to compete with the foreign manufacturer. I consider the present duty of one halfpenny and one penny per lb., injurious to the manufacturer and the wool-grower. If foreign cloth were admitted duty free, we should have our own wool left entirely on our hands; it would throw thousands of hands out of work. There is this difference between the importation of wool and cloth,—that when the wool is imported, it must

be worked up by our manufacturers into a saleable article ; whereas when foreign cloth is imported, the saleable article is worked up by the foreign manufacturer ; therefore the importation of foreign cloth and foreign wool do not stand precisely on the same footing. The price of wool of British growth advanced after the tax was taken off ; it fell when it was laid on.

Mr. WILLIAM CUNNINGTON, woolstapler, Wiltshire.—A duty on foreign wool would no doubt greatly distress the manufacturer, and would not increase the price of English wool : when the duty was put on in 1819, the English market immediately fell.

Mr. JAMES FISON, wool-dealer, Thetford.—The price of Norfolk wool in 1819 was 1s. 6d. per lb., and in 1820 it was 1s. 2½d. ; there was the fall between these two years, and that was the time at which the tax began its operation. In conversing with Mr. Coke previous to that time, I told him my opinion was, that a tax laid on wool imported would have a tendency to diminish the price rather than advance it, and the result proved I was correct. I grounded my opinion upon this circumstance,—that the consequence of laying a duty here would be to lower the price in foreign countries, and then they would certainly compete with us, and beat us out of the markets for cloths.

Mr. JAMES HUBBARD, woolstapler, Leeds.—I presume that the effect of the tax on foreign wool in 1819, was not to create a greater consumption of South Down wool ; it certainly affected our foreign trade, and a very considerable proportion of English wool is exported in manufactured goods : very little of the English growth of clothing wool is consumed in this country. As to the immediate effect of a duty, I cannot say, for I do not know what speculation there might be ; I am of opinion that it would not permanently advance. I think it would very probably have the effect at the time of setting speculation afloat ; for there are persons in this country who imagine that an increased duty on foreign wool must advance the price of British ; but I think a manufacturer would view it in a different light. I think the eventual result would be, that it would have a tendency to lower the English wools, rather than to raise them. I conceive that an enormous importation of

foreign wool must at the commencement have had an effect on the price of South Down wool, for by coming it superseded in some measure the use of South Down wool, for a time; and if a duty were laid on foreign wool, it would not eventually advance the price of English wool; but according to my views, founded on my experience of the last duty, it would have the effect of decreasing the price. I contend if there had never been an ounce of foreign wool introduced into this kingdom, at the period the duty was laid on, English wools would have come down in price. I ground my opinion on the fact, that every article of produce, not affected by foreign importations, has been reduced in price; and though the large foreign importation of wool may have been one cause amongst others, it has not been the sole, or even the principal, cause of the fall in price.

Mr. THOMAS COOK, merchant and manufacturer of blankets, &c., Dewsbury, Yorkshire.—We use Prussian wool, low German wool, and some from Turkey, Italy, Iceland, and the Levant: nearly all the goods we make from foreign wool are exported. In the very low description of goods we use foreign wool entirely. In other goods we should use one-third or two-thirds of British wool in it. We could not use that British wool without the aid of foreign wool: we should get no orders. I conceive that foreign wool could not bear an additional duty, without falling injuriously on the manufacturers of this country. I think the duty already very injurious: the duty already on the wool we use is from six to twenty per cent., and I think that very injurious,—that duty we can ill afford to pay. Any enhancement of the price of our manufactures would afford to the foreigners facilities for competing with us: we have found the competition of the low cloths of France, as well as their blankets, in our American markets.

Mr. JOHN BROOKS, manufacturer, Honley, near Huddersfield.—The description of cloths we manufacture are principally broad cloths from 7s. to 25s. per yard. I conceive whatever duty is put on the importation of wool, we as manufacturers must use foreign wool, for we cannot get a cloth we could sell from English wool: we must, if a duty is laid on, continue to use German wool, or give up the manufacture.

Mr. JOSEPH SWAINE, merchant and manufacturer, Gomersal, near Leeds.—Manufactures coatings and duffields for exportation, principally to Holland and Flanders; they are made of a mixture of English and foreign wool. We experience great competition, and that competition increases yearly. If an additional duty should be imposed on foreign wool, such a partial increase in the price of the raw material would deprive us of the means of competition: the consequence would be the disuse of so much British wool,—as the introduction of foreign wool into the country enables a manufacturer to work up English wool which he would not otherwise employ.

Mr. GEO. GOODMAN, wool merchant, Leeds.—Supposing a duty to be put on foreign wool, I do not think the effect would be to force the use of South Down wool into cloths from which it is now excluded, because we could not get people to wear the cloth made from it: but I think it would exclude a quantity of foreign wool, almost equal to our export trade in cloth, and those particular descriptions of wool which are mixed with South Down and other English wools, and manufactured into goods. I conceive that if the present duties on foreign wools were repealed, it would be decidedly advantageous to our trade, and would raise the price of British wools.

Mr. JOHN NUSSEY, cloth manufacturer, Birstal, near Leeds.—The price of British wool has not risen since it was supposed that a duty might be laid on foreign wool. A duty of three-pence per lb. would undoubtedly reduce the price of wool in this country, for in proportion as foreign wool was taken out of the market by a tax, the demand for goods would fall: the goods now in demand would cease to be in demand, and we should not buy the raw material to make an article for which we think the market would be diminished. The price of wool would be lowered to the foreign manufacturer, and he would be enabled to undersell us. If the present tax of one penny per lb. were taken off, it would, I have no doubt, raise the price of British wool.

Mr. JOHN BROOKE, blanket and carpet manufacturer, Dewsbury, Yorkshire.—Consumes about 110 packs of wool per week: our goods are chiefly exported. In eight weeks from the 3rd of May, we consumed 900 packs of wool, 270 packs of which were foreign wool. If a duty of sixpence per lb.

were laid upon foreign wool, I think it would ruin our trade. I consider that a duty on the raw material would be likely to diminish the manufacture of blankets at home, and give a preference to foreigners. I am of opinion that a free trade in wool, that is, the importation without any duty whatever, would be advantageous to the woollen manufacturers as well as to the wool-growers, and that it would tend to raise the price of English wool; if the duty is removed, we shall be able to do more business, consequently employ the men to greater advantage, and use more English wool. During the existence of the 6d. duty, our export trade suffered considerable injury; we did not do half so much business as we do now: there were not half the number of mills employed in the country.

MR. GERVASE WALKER, cloth manufacturer, at Horbury, near Wakefield, and Trustee of the White Cloth Hall, Leeds.—It is my full conviction that a small duty on imported wool would be injurious to the manufacturer. My opinion is, that if there was a duty, you would by that means give the foreigner the advantage over the English manufacturer, that many would be thrown out of employ, and their works could not be employed at all.

MR. BENJAMIN GOTT, manufacturer and merchant, Leeds.—I have no doubt but the imposition of an additional duty on the importation of foreign wool would be fatal to the foreign trade in woollens to the country: it would be equally injurious to the demand for coarse manufactures as fine, because the competition now with foreigners is as nearly balanced as possible; and the disturbing operation of attacks of that description would necessarily enable the foreigner to buy his wool cheaper than we could purchase it in this country; the result would be that the foreigners would, by such a premium, be enabled to extend their manufactures to the exclusion of British manufactures of all kinds made from short wool. During the time of the existence of the sixpenny duty, there was a very serious reduction of the export trade of the county of York. I consider that the exclusion of any considerable quantity of foreign wool would so lower the price of that article abroad, as to operate as a bounty to the foreign manufacturer against the British manufacturer, and lower the price

of British wool in this country, because the demand would be less in quantity, so much so as to increase the stock, and the accumulation of stock would be the cause of a reduction in price. If the duty on foreign wool becomes greater in amount than the fifteen per cent. imposed upon foreign cloths imported, then there will be a decrease in the quantity manufactured here, and more foreign cloth will be brought in. I think a duty of sixpence per lb. would exclude us from the foreign market; but I do not conceive that it would exclude us from the home market. I do not think it would bring in much fine cloth in competition with us for the home markets. Supposing a selection were made of the finest qualities of British wool and manufactured into cloth, I am of opinion that we could not substitute that for cloth made from foreign wool. By imposing a duty of sixpence per lb. on foreign wool, I think the price of wool would be immediately lowered in Germany to the whole difference of the duty, and that the English wool-grower would not gain one farthing. I believe that if the present duty were repealed, the price of British wool would certainly rise in consequence, and if the duty on oil and dye-drugs were also taken off, this country would displace many manufacturers on the continent: the lower the price, the nearer we come into fair competition with them; and then the natural resources of this country in coal and so on, could be brought into full operation. Germany being a flat country, and the rivers so sluggish, they have no power from them: we have great natural advantages. The present duties average

$\frac{1}{4}$ d. per yard by olive oil.

$\frac{1}{4}$ d. per yard by indigo.

$2\frac{1}{4}$ d. per yard by wool on fine cloth.

The present duty on wool equally operates as a bounty to the foreign manufacturer against Great Britain; and inasmuch as it does that, it operates against the English wool grower. It is also a protection evidently upon the face of it; for I think it operates as a bounty to the foreign manufacturer against this country, in the consumption of their wool against ours, and eventually injures the British agriculturist: that is my firm persuasion and belief. We cannot avoid the expense of bringing wool to this country, and that is a protection to the foreign manufacturer and a bounty to him, only one is a

necessary consequence of our situation, which we cannot avoid, and the other duties on importation are the acts of our own government; they are both protections; but in one the duty is an artificial protection; in the other, the carriage, &c. is a necessary consequence of our situation. With respect to the circumstances of the foreign manufacturers, the north of Germany is deficient both in coals and water mills; they have not the means of manufacturing in successful competition with us, but at a higher expense than we are at.

Mr. THOMAS SHEPPARD, Blackwell Hall factor, London.—The effect of imposing a duty of sixpence per lb. on the importation of foreign wool would be,—speaking of the finest cloth, such as I have been in the habit of sending to the United States of America, formerly at 36s. per yard, and latterly at 17s. to 30s. per yard,—the duty would be highly injurious; those articles could not bear the competition in foreign markets. With a view to the livery cloths, which are made of a mixture of foreign and English wool, it would be totally ruinous: the sixpence per lb. on Spanish wool thrown on that cloth of 10s per yard, would prohibit its foreign sale in competition with foreign cloth; it would put an end to that trade: the lower we go, the greater the obstacle. I am not at all interested, or very little, in that question, but the lower the price of the article, the more destructive that would be. I do not believe we have recovered, though we are recovering, the effects of the former imposition of duty. I have found it much more difficult to recover old connections dissatisfied, than to form new ones. I am fully of opinion that, in order to make the English wool valuable to the grower of it in this country, it is essential that foreign wool should be allowed to be imported at a low duty; I cannot see it in any other light; I have looked at it as little interested as any person can be. The duty would reduce the price of German wool; it would have a somewhat similar effect to that it had before; we should be afraid to import it, and it would be sold cheaper in Germany.

Mr. JAS. BISCHOFF, merchant, London.—The effect of the tax imposed on the importation of foreign wool was to reduce the exportation of woollens considerably; it was felt first in the near markets of Europe; the Italian market, and the

markets of the Levant were as much affected as any, from their proximity to continental manufactures. Foreign manufacturers were enabled to make as good cloths as ours, and, from the effect of the duty here, at a cheaper rate. My impression now is, that the export trade in cloth is again on the increase to all those markets which were affected by the imposition of the tax. I remember the time when the act allowing cloth to be warehoused in this country passed; it was during the operation of the sixpenny duty. I sold foreign cloth in this market at that time for South America and elsewhere. The commencement of that trade was, that I ordered some cloths on a small scale from Prussia: my nephew went there and purchased them. I found them much lower in price than any that could be manufactured here, and I showed them to some merchants who traded very largely to South America. In consequence they gave me large orders, which were executed in Prussia; the cloths were sent into the bonding warehouses, and shipped from thence to South America; that was one part of the trade. Seeing its operation, I ordered a quantity from Prussia, and shipped them to Gibraltar,—in both cases because the cloth I got from Prussia was cheaper than I could get it in England. I continued that trade so long as the tax on wool continued. Since the tax was repealed, it has entirely ceased; foreign cloth is dearer now, and English cloth is cheaper. The description of cloths which I imported was coarse cloth, about 1s. 10d. or 2s. per yard, to 5s. per yard. The price which was charged me at that time in the white, was about five rix dollars and three quarters for about nineteen pounds weight, say $5\frac{3}{4}$ rix dollars for a piece of cloth weighing 19 lbs.: the price is now six rix dollars and three quarters: it has risen one-sixth. I have made inquiries lately with a view to the renewal of that trade, and with relation to this inquiry, the result is the advance in price which I have already stated. The Prussian manufacturer was at that time enabled to make his cloth so much cheaper than he does now, from a stop being put here to the importation of low foreign wools in consequence of the tax of 6d. per lb. When the tax of 6d. per lb. was laid on foreign wool, it prevented merchants in this country importing any, except at higher prices, consequently the wool

growers and wool merchants abroad, having the stock of low wools left on their hands, were obliged to find new customers or to manufacture it themselves; the wool became a drug in the country, and was sold at a lower price, so as to enable the manufacturers to afford the cloths at the prices I have stated. I am of opinion (looking at the present state of trade, and the manufactures on the Continent,) that the effect of a duty of 6d. per lb. imposed now, would be the same that it had before,—would throw upon their hands the low wools now imported here, and enable the foreign manufacturer to meet us in every market. I am of opinion that New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land are very capable of producing fine wools, but I do not conceive the imposition of a protecting duty on the importation of foreign wool, exempting them from it, will greatly benefit the sale of the wool produced there and tend to their rapid improvement, because foreign wool is at present necessary to the supply of our manufactures, and if a duty be laid on, so as to stop the importation from Europe, so that the manufacturers in this country are deprived of it, the manufacture must decrease, and when the wools from New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land are imported in any quantity, the importers would have to go to Germany to find customers. Foreign cloth now pays 15 per cent. duty on importation: I should have no objection to the repeal of that duty, if the duties on wool, olive oil, and dye wares, were repealed. I do not think the large importation of foreign wool has had the effect of lowering the price of British wool, because I do not think it competes with British wool; but that having low foreign wool to mix with our wools, has enabled us to make articles which have met a demand. The exportation of cloth during the continuance of the sixpenny duty was considerably less than it was before or since. The repeal of the duty on foreign cloth might affect the price of British wool, if manufactured goods were brought in in such quantities as to reduce the sale of goods made from English wool; the duty of 15 per cent. on foreign woollens acts, I conceive, more as a protection to the British wool grower than to the British manufacturer, because, if the cloth be allowed to come into this market duty free, and to take the place of British cloth, it

not only throws the wool of which that cloth may be made on the hands of the wool grower, but it deprives the manufacturer of the means of maintaining himself: it would, therefore, affect the wool grower more than the manufacturer, because the latter might turn his capital and manufactory to other things, but the farmer could not so easily turn his capital invested in land to other things. The duty of 6d. per lb. did not prevent the importation of the finest German wools: the importation of the finest wool during the four years when the tax was imposed was greater than in the four years preceding; the manufacturers gave their attention to the finer fabrics; but it kept out the low German wools, and occasioned the accumulation of coarse wools abroad, and consequently the fall in price, both there and in this country. If the duty of 6d. per lb. on foreign wool were again imposed, and at the same time a bounty commensurate with that duty were given by way of drawback, the duty would, I conceive, still prevent the importation of low wools, because no bounty would enable the importer to get back the duty he paid on importation. A merchant wants to import wool of the value of 1s. per lb., for which he has to pay a duty of 6d. per lb., and in order to remunerate himself he must sell it at 1s. 6d. per lb.; but having sold it to the manufacturer, he cannot get back in bounty what he has paid in duty, the wool being manufactured into cloth probably by one man, mixed with English wool, and bought and exported by another man, so that the bounty could not reach the merchant who paid the duty. I do not think the imposition of a duty can raise the price of British wool, but that the demand for British wool and the price of it would increase, if the present tax were repealed.

Mr. WILLIAM IRELAND, Blackwell Hall factor, London, having a manufactory at Chalford, in Gloucestershire.—We manufacture broad cloths from 3s. to 5s. per yard, chiefly for the East India Company. A great portion of it is from English wool, some from German and Spanish. We also manufacture livery cloths, now made chiefly of foreign wool. A duty of 6d. per lb. would not bring back the use of British wool, because, in the first place, we could not get the English wool to make the article which we could sell, and again the

foreigner would reduce his prices. If a drawback were allowed equal to the duty imposed when woollens were exported, I think it could not be done without frauds being committed by the manufacturer, who might demand a drawback, pretending that his cloth was manufactured of foreign wool in a greater degree than it was. It would in fact be a bounty on all cloths exported, whether made of foreign or British wool, or both mixed together.

"10. The proportions of the home and the foreign markets for woollens."

Mr. JOHN BROOKE, blanket manufacturer, Dewsbury.—I consider the home trade the safest, because we have the customers at home; but I think the foreign trade in blankets the most extensive.

Mr. HENRY HUGHES, wool broker and factor, London.—I conceive that we consume here more than two-thirds of the cloth made of foreign wool. Of all foreign wool that is imported, from my recollection, I believe it was three-fourths for home consumption.

Mr. JAMES BISCHOFF, London.—The home market, in point of extent, is the best for woollen manufactures.

Mr. JOHN VARLEY, Stanningley, near Leeds.—When the operative manufacturers are best employed, and when corn and meat bear a fair price, we always find the home market the best.

"11. The change which has taken place in the demand for the finer articles of manufacture."

Mr. JOHN VARLEY, Stanningley, near Leeds, manufacturer.—I am of opinion that the taste of the people is changed

* The inquiries upon this head were not such as were likely to elicit the truth. It appears from evidence given before the House of Commons in 1800, that the value of the woollen manufacture from British wool alone was then estimated at £19,800,000 annually. From a calculation made by the editor of this work in 1820, "Reasons for the Immediate Repeal of the Tax on Foreign Wool," it appears that the value of goods manufactured from British wool, and exported, was then about £5,389,454; from foreign wool, £1,784,187,—total, £7,173,641. And he quoted the authority of the Earl of Sheffield, in 1818, for the total value of the woollen manufacture, which was then estimated by his lordship at £28,000,000. Looking, therefore, to the increased importation of wool, it may probably be fairly estimated, that notwithstanding the reduced price of wool, the value of woollen and worsted goods exported has not decreased since that period.

both here and abroad, and that the demand is for a finer description of cloth made of a finer description of wool: perhaps people can afford better to get it, but it appears to me fancy, and cloth made from foreign wool is better than cloth made from English wool.

Mr. JAMES HUBBARD, wool merchant, Leeds.—There has been a gradual decrease in my sales of British wool for making cloth. My sales in the fine English wools ceased about 1825, in the regular channels. I have very often returned some sales, but they are very small in comparison to the general consumption which was before. I sold formerly much more fine English wool in the foreign than the home trade. I sell to both, of course, but my regular connections happened to be more among those of the North American market than any other at that time. My sales have nearly ceased; I do not sell one-tenth part to those houses which I did before. My customers stated that they had been in the habit of making cloth from English wool until they found they could not find a regular sale for the goods, and that the goods had been superseded by other goods, by the introduction of better fabrics made in this country; the great bulk of which, I presume, from foreign wool.

Mr. JOHN BROOKE, manufacturer, Honley.—Some years ago we used to manufacture our cloths from English wool collected in Sussex, Norfolk, Suffolk, &c. &c. We ceased to manufacture English wool entirely in 1823 and 1824; our cloths are made entirely for the home trade. We now use entirely foreign wool. The taste of the country and of the public, with respect to cloths, has altered within the last four or five years. We sell finer qualities of cloth than we formerly did. I believe we could not now find a market in the home trade for cloth made from English wool.

Mr. GERVASE WALKER, cloth manufacturer, Horbury.—We found, three or four years ago, that cloth made of English wool did not find a ready sale, and it was necessary to mix foreign with it, or to make cloth entirely of foreign wool. Two or three reasons might be assigned for this change; in the first place the fashion of the day is one thing that causes it to be more in demand; in the next place there is not the felty nature in the English wool that there is in foreign wool.

Mr. CHARLES WEBB, Blackwell Hall factor, London.—The demand has gone almost from cloths made exclusively of English wools (that is, cloths called second cloths), to cloths manufactured partly and altogether of foreign wools. Cloth made of English wool will not sell in competition with cloth made of foreign wool; that has been the case since 1824.

“12. *The past and present value of cloths manufactured solely from British wool, from any mixture of British wools with the fine wools of Germany and Spain, with the low wools of the Mediterranean, Germany, Denmark, Russia, Iceland, and with the wools of Australia.*”

Mr. JOHN VARLEY, manufacturer, Stanningley.—The East India Company require a neater made cloth than formerly, in consequence of which we had to improve the quality of the wool; a little foreign wool is therefore now used in that description of cloth; and it is by larger quantities of foreign wool that the price of the cloth is raised. We could not make those descriptions of cloths, unless we mixed some foreign wool with the English wool, either so good or so cheap; we could not find a sufficient demand for those qualities of cloths either in the home or foreign market, unless we mixed some foreign with the English wool; and an admixture of foreign tends to increase the consumption of English wool. Foreign wools are particularly applicable to ladies' cloths and shawls, and also pelisse cloths, while duffields or calmuks are made entirely from English wools, principally from the noils and shorts, which are separated from long wool; we introduce a portion of South Down wool into them. Army cloths are made principally of South Down wools, and all of British wool: sergeants' cloth is made of a better quality, taken from South Down fleeces, with a mixture of foreign wool with it, according to the proportion that we think the quality of the English wool is to make; it mills and dresses better; the wool comes from Germany and Spain, and we sometimes put a little Van Diemen's Land wool in. It is impossible to make ladies' cloths without foreign wool, at least such as the foreigners want; the lowest ladies' cloths we make for the home market, chiefly from 2s. 11d. to 3s. per yard, are made all of English wool; middle qualities are made of a mixture

of foreign and English wool; and ladies' cloths at 5s. 3d. per yard and upwards are made all of foreign wool. Foreign customers would not buy ladies' cloths made of English wool alone; if I was to make them at 5s. per yard entirely of English wool, and at the same price made of mixed wool, and send them to South America, they would pick out all the cloths made from a mixture of foreign and English wool, and leave the rest.

Mr. JOHN SUTCLIFFE, woolstapler, Huddersfield.—The manufacturers mix Scotch and foreign wool together, and without low-priced foreign wool they could not make so good an article: if made of Scotch wool alone, it would not have that fastness in texture; so that for an article fit for the present market and the present taste, it is absolutely necessary to have low foreign wool.

Mr. THOMAS COOK, merchant, &c. Dewsbury.—We manufacture cloths to 5s. per yard, but nine-tenths of our business is in blankets. We have found it necessary in the last ten years to use foreign wool: previous to that we used none. The wool formerly used was Kent head, broad head, and breech wool. We could not make blankets so as to procure a sale for them, if we did not mix foreign wool with the British wool, and we should have no orders; the foreign wools we use are Russian, low German, some from Turkey, and other countries in the Levant, Italy, and Iceland; our whole consumption in the year is about 1000 packs of foreign wool, and 3,500 to 4,000 packs of British wool. I take the change to arise from inability on the part of the Americans to give so high a price as they did for our goods; and they called upon us for an article lower in quality than we had been accustomed to manufacture for them; and we have had an annual increase in the demand for that low description of goods.

Mr. JOHN BROOKE, blanket manufacturer, Dewsbury.—Our consumption of wool is about one-third foreign and two-thirds English wool. The goods for the home market are chiefly made of English wool.

Mr. GERVASE WALKER, cloth manufacturer, Horbury.—I found four or five years ago that cloth made of English wool did not find a ready sale: it was necessary either to mix

it with foreign, or to make cloth entirely of foreign wool. In cloths up to 5s. per yard, we put one-fourth of Saxony or other foreign wool, into three parts of English. When we get up to 5s. per yard, or 6s. per yard, we give up using English wool altogether: previous to the year 1825, we used more English wool.

Mr. J. C. FRANCIS, cloth manufacturer, Heytesbury.—We were formerly in the habit of making livery cloths entirely of English wool. The year 1825 was the first year when English and foreign wools were mixed, which we were obliged to do, in consequence of the inferior quality of the English wool. We now make much less cloth with a mixture of English and foreign wool; we are obliged to use foreign wool entirely, because the cloth made from the mixture of foreign and English wools sells so much less freely, and bears a less profit: the quality of English wool has become worse every year.

Mr. BENJAMIN GOTT, merchant and manufacturer, Leeds.—Blankets, or nearly the whole of them, are made from British wool; I should say rather the wool of the United Kingdom,—it takes in the Irish wool; also another article approaching to blankets, called flushings or bearskins, are made chiefly of English wool; some part are made from foreign wool mixed with English, or foreign wool alone, and some part made of British wool and rags, wrought up together; those are the low foreign wools; the finest are made exclusively of foreign wool. The low white cloths which are sold in the Cloth Hall at Leeds, are made of low descriptions of British wool, and of the middle sorts, generally speaking, and English and foreign wool mixed, and the fine cloths of foreign wool exclusively. In the mode of applying the different wools, the weight of the cloth must be considered; if it was a heavy cloth, then English wool only would be used to a particular price; if it was a thin light cloth, as a pelisse cloth for women's wear, or thin cloths of any description, as finer coatings, then a mixture of foreign wool would be added, in proportion to the lightness of the fabric; because that will spin better, and make a finer cloth, and a thinner cloth than the English wool will do; those goods constitute a very great part of the export.

Mr. WILLIAM IRELAND, manufacturer, Gloucestershire.—We manufacture cloths at Chalford, principally for the East India Company, from 3s. to 5s. per yard, some entirely of English wool, some of English and foreign wool mixed, and some entirely of foreign wool. Formerly we did not use much of the South Down wool: there were three descriptions of wool we were in the habit of using, the one the Hereford wool,—(the Dean Forest wools,) which we considered the best in the kingdom: the next descriptions of wools were those of the Mendip Hills, those called the Mendip wools; and the next description, which we considered the third class of wools at that period, were the horned Wilts and Dorsets. We then used Hereford wools for the finest quality of cloth made for the East India Company, called Spanish striped cloths. We began to mix foreign with English wool in making cloth about six years ago, but more particularly in 1824 and 1825; we found by experience in the first place, that we could purchase foreign wools on better terms than we could buy English wools, and we found we could make a cloth so superior at the same price, that we of course gave the preferment to it. The East India Company export about 12,000 pieces of Spanish stripes made of foreign wool, and 3,000 pieces of super cloth made exclusively of English wool. We find that English wool make a very good, a stout heavy cloth for the clothing of the army.

“13. *The value of cloths made wholly from foreign wools.*”

Mr. JOHN VARLEY, manufacturer, Stanningley.—If I make one piece of cloth of German wool, and another piece of South Down wool of relative value, the German would sell for 1s. 3d., to 1s. 6d. per yard more than the English, viz., made of the same colour and texture.

Mr. GERVASE WALKER, manufacturer, Horbury.—Suppose a piece of cloth, made entirely of English wool, was placed alongside a piece of cloth made of a low quality of foreign wool, the prices of wool being the same, the one made of foreign wool would sell for a shilling a yard more than the other: any customer would say, as soon as he put his hand upon it, I will buy this; I will give you one shilling more for it than for the other.

MR. J. C. FRANCIS, manufacturer, Heytesbury.—I am a manufacturer of livery cloths at 9s. 6d. per yard: they are made entirely of foreign wool.

“14. *The effect of the manufacture of articles made of cotton, and of wool mixed with cotton, upon the wool market, and upon the woollen trade.*”

MR. HENRY HUGHES, wool factor, London.—I think, in the long run, there is no fear that cotton can ever supersede woollen, except as fashion may be inclined in favour of cotton jackets or cotton pantaloons, or any thing of that kind during a part of the year; but in the long run I do not think it will ever interfere. There are a certain description of goods manufactured of cotton and wool together, called woollen cords, which, if they were all manufactured of wool, the consumption would be very great; but the cotton being cheaper than wool, a good deal of cotton is used in the manufacture of those articles. I think we export very little of them: I think they are principally for home consumption; there is a great deal of that article used in the manufacturing districts of Lancashire and Yorkshire. It operates as an exclusion to wool, so far as the cotton is introduced into the articles, which I take to be about one-third. Those are worn as much by the agricultural population as others, particularly woollen cords, which the farmers use for breeches, of which cotton is one-third part: they will wear for a long while and look well. The farmers' men have a very great liking, in consequence of the length of wear, to have these patent cords, and therefore that article is very much consumed by farmers' men, waggoners, and agriculturists, as well as by the poorer manufacturing classes of the community. Fustians and velveteen clothing are used by them in the summer months. Plush is also used by them; it is more expensive than cloth in the first instance, but is more durable, which makes it economical,—it keeps clean longer than anything in the woollen line.

MR. JOHN VARLEY, manufacturer, Stanningley.—There are a great many baizes of which the warps are made of cotton, and their quantity is rapidly increasing; they are always exported; they have gone to South America for a long while;

the warp of baize still continues in part to be worsted, but cotton has been used to warp the baizes.

Mr. JAMES HUBBARD, wool merchant, Leeds.—My customers tell me that cotton has had a great influence on the lower English cloths, and I can speak from my own observation in passing through the country, that the improved fabric of cottons have superseded them; the lower sorts of milled woollen cloths are in consequence very much superseded in our country; the use of cotton has very much superseded the use of cloth,—when one is low, the other cannot long continue high, they go together,—they affect the price of each other much. Every article of raw produce, both home and foreign, has been gradually declining in price since the peace; it is not only in wool, but hemp, and flax, and cotton; the latter, I believe, is the most powerful opponent of the woollen branch of business of any other, as a domestic branch. It is perfectly impossible, in my opinion, for cotton to remain at a low price long together, and woollens high, for the one is a substitute for the other. If you pass over the surface of the country, it will appear that one-half, or probably two-thirds, of the working orders of society, are clothed in cottons instead of woollens, so that the lower fabrics of woollens have been superseded.

Mr. JACOB TWEEDALE, manufacturer, Rochdale.—Cotton goods, viz., calicoes, fustians, &c., have come very much into competition with woollens in my neighbourhood, and we have latterly introduced a great deal of cotton with the woollens, making an article called “dometts,” and another article called “domett baize,” which has superseded woollen baize; a great deal of it is exported,—the greatest bulk goes to South America, also to the United States of America, and a great proportion to the continent.

Mr. CHARLES WEBB, Blackwell Hall factor, London.—I believe the low price of cotton, cotton goods, and other articles of that description, has had more effect upon English woollen goods and English wool, than all the quantity of foreign wool imported.

Mr. WILLIAM IRELAND, manufacturer, Gloucestershire.—It will appear that nine-tenths of the peasantry of this country

are clothed in cotton, whereas they used to be clothed in woollen; they always wear them as working dresses, and on the Sunday they are wearing a superfine cloth coat, and that is made of foreign wool. If cotton is to supply the place of woollen, wool cannot rise in price. Were you to confine the population to wear woollen, it must rise in price; but if they may wear cotton or woollen at their pleasure, they cannot raise it. I think cotton is a more economical wear than woollen; the practice of wearing cotton has grown very much within the last six or seven years; it has caused a diminished demand for English wool, and has, I think, been one main cause of the low price. I conceive that the habits of the country have materially changed from what they were three years ago. In the districts I am connected with, I find that our weavers, and different persons connected with our factory, do not wear so much woollen cloth as they used to do: they say they cannot afford it now.

“ 15. *The importation of woollen rags, and the uses to which they have been applied.*”

Mr. HENRY HUGHES, wool broker, London.—Cloth called paddings are worked out of old rags for collars of coats; they are sold extremely low,—from sixpence to one shilling per yard; there is, I understand, a great deal of coarse carpeting manufactured from old blankets and old rags.

Mr. THOMAS LEGG, woolstapler, Bermondsey.—There is a considerable quantity of old rags that is imported from Germany and other parts of the continent, principally from Germany, worked up in a machine called the “manufacturer’s devil;” they are completely decomposed, and worked up instead of low British wools. In the neighbourhood of Dewsbury there is a large quantity used; they are made into low carpets and low druggets; they cause a great deal less of low English wools to be used than would be used if they were not introduced into the goods. The importation of those rags is generally understood to be for agricultural purposes,—they are not, I believe, used for paper. One of the largest manufacturers that there is in the neighbourhood of Dewsbury was at my house last week, and expressed a wish that Government would prevent their coming in altogether, for they injured the

manufactures when the article is decomposed in that way. The term the manufacturers give it is “shoddy.” When a broom is used upon it, it keeps wearing out: they are goods made for sale, and not for wear, and most certainly the sale of low English wool is injured by it.

Mr. JOHN SUTCLIFFE, woolstapler, Huddersfield.—I have never imported any woollen rags, and never would do it, let me be in what business I would. I think if your lordships stopped that filth from coming into the country it would be a benefit. I do not know that the working of woollen rags into our manufactures has a tendency to lower our goods when exported, in the opinion of the foreigner; they manage every thing so well now in the manufacture, I am not certain that they spoil the goods with them. Some people may say they make worse goods, but I think they make good goods of it; and I think whatever rags are imported, they so far supply the place of the low sorts of English and of Scotch wool, that I think the rags would certainly be a substitute for them, and so far the agriculturist would have an interest in their prohibition. The view I have of it is this,—suppose a thousand bags of rags come into the country, I do say that that thousand bags displaces a thousand bags of our coarse wool, the low sorts even of Sussex included, but particularly Scotch wool from the black-faced sheep.

Mr. THOMAS COOK, merchant manufacturer, Dewsbury.—The manufacturers in my neighbourhood work up old rags to a large extent with the Scotch Highland wool.

Mr. JOHN NUSSEY, manufacturer, Birstal, Leeds.—Manufactures druggets, paddings, and calmuks; they are made of Scotch wool, sometimes part skin wool, and worsted and mill waste, and mixed with wool made from woollen rags; the price of the goods we make is from 1s. 5d. to 3s. 6d. per yard. They are mixed up in various proportions, according to the nature of the goods required. From a calculation I have made of the number of rag machines, and the number of pieces manufactured, and a comparison of what our goods consume, and also the number of carding and scribbling machines employed in that trade, I think there cannot be more than 9000 packs of wool made from rags: I conceive that about one-eighth of that quantity are imported. The ground upon

which I form my opinion is, that we are the principal purchasers. During the last seven months, I believe that not more than one parcel was sold from us that were imported into Hull, and we also purchase in London. We generally know what rags are imported, and we believe that the whole quantity cannot be more than 150 or 160 tons that are used for our own purposes; I mean for the purpose of making cloth. I believe that more rags are used for mattresses and stuffings of carriages, and pulled up in London and other places, than we use, or at least as many. The quantity imported, compared to those collected at home, being so very small, a prohibition of the importation of rags from abroad could not have any serious effect on the working classes in our neighbourhood; it would lessen the quantity of work just to that amount, but would not raise the price of low English and Scotch wool; it would, I think, have a contrary effect. The price of rags varies from £7 10s. to £25 10s. per ton. According to our experience, a ton of foreign rags makes $6\frac{1}{2}$ packs, 240lbs. each, of wool. Rags gathered at home make $7\frac{1}{2}$ packs per ton. About one-third, or rather more, of the goods manufactured from rags are exported. Without the importation of foreign rags, we could not make articles at a sufficiently low price to answer the demands from abroad; the duty on importation of foreign rags is 15 per cent. *ad valorem*, when fit to be worked up into cloth, and 7s. 6d. per ton when used for manure. English rags have been used in our manufacture for ten or fifteen years; but as mere matter of belief, imported rags have not been used more than seven or ten years. We have put up a great deal of machinery, and employed a great deal of capital in erecting machinery, for the purpose of tearing up the rags; they are beginning to erect machinery abroad to pull up the rags there, and to send the wool made from rags into this country.

Mr. BENJAMIN GOTT, merchant manufacturer, Leeds.—I do not import foreign rags. I buy manufactured cloth made from rags, but I do not buy the rags themselves. One article manufactured from rags is called stroud; that is used by the natives of North America—North American Indians; we export it to North America, and it is sent up the Mississippi, and also round Cape Horn. I consider the importation

of foreign rags of great importance to the British manufacturer. I think it is essential to some descriptions of manufacture, and if not manufactured in this country—if it did not come here to be taxed, in other words, it would be manufactured abroad in competition with this country, and to the injury of the English agriculturist and manufacturer; because there would be no English wool called for, and now it requires perhaps half the weight of English wool to be manufactured with it. I am not acquainted with the price of rags. I buy articles manufactured from them, and export it in considerable quantities.

“16. The probable increase of the supply of wool from Australia.”

Mr. HENRY HUGHES, wool broker, London.—I am acquainted with the wools grown in the colonies of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land. The quantity annually imported has averaged about 2,000,000 lbs. within the last few years; they are every year sending in more. The quality of the wool was originally very bad, but the climate has a most extraordinary effect upon the fleece. Latterly they have been of varied qualities, but all possessing an extraordinary softness, which the manufacturers here so much admire, that they are sought for more than any other description of wools from that peculiar quality, which is supposed to arise from the climate alone. They are known to require less of the milling or fulling power than any other description of wools. Fine woolled sheep have been exported to those colonies, and they have improved in a wonderful degree, which cannot be accounted for by the best judges, except from the climate. The sheep run there, as in this country, without any care; they are left to themselves; the climate does not require the housing of them as in Germany. If the farmers in those colonies were encouraged in the cultivation of wool, I should conceive myself that that country is adequate to the growth of as much wool of a fine description, as ever will be wanted by the manufacturers of England; and from experience I have no doubt myself, that, fifteen or twenty years hence, it will be the case that we shall have as much wool from those colonies as we shall want in this country of the finer kind.

The Australian and Van Diemen's Land wools are better adapted than the German wools to mix with British wools in our manufactures, because the superior softness which I have stated, gives a character, when mixed with English wool, that the other does not from the hardness of the fibre. The coarser wools pay a remunerating price. I can bring wools from Sydney or Hobart Town at a less expense per lb. than from Vienna or Leipzig.

Mr. STEWART DONALDSON, merchant, London.—Has been for several years exclusively engaged in the trade between this country and the colonies of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land. It appears to me, on a comparison of the fleeces of the sheep at the time they were exported, with the wools received from New South Wales, that it has certainly improved, so far as we have had an opportunity of judging. The temperature of the climate is such, that there is no particular care taken in the management of sheep farms. We commenced to make shipments of fine woolled sheep to New South Wales between three and four years ago. The wool has progressively improved from year to year. The quantity imported was about 190,000 lbs. weight in 1820; it exceeded a million of pounds in 1826; and from the best information I can obtain, I should say that this year there will not be less than two millions of pounds. I account for this increase partly from the natural tendency to increase, and from the quantity kept back last year in consequence of the discouraging prices in 1826. I apprehend the quantity of wool produced in those colonies will be bounded only by the profitable return they may hope to obtain. The land applicable to that course of husbandry is unlimited. I have no hesitation in pronouncing, that the wools of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land are decidedly preferred to the apparently similar descriptions of German wool. I think the wools of those colonies are of a description which will not interfere in the least with the use of British wool; on the contrary, I should think, from their peculiar softness of texture, that they are better adapted than the other descriptions of wool to mix with the harder staple of English wool. The wools of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land have comparatively very peculiar qualities; they have a softness and silkiness

about them, which, when worked up into cloth, shows itself more distinctly than in the raw material. I conceive that is dependant on the climate alone. I am of opinion that wool of that quality could not be produced in any part of Europe. It is from a very inferior description of sheep, introduced into the colonies from the Cape of Good Hope, and even from India, and from some original breeds of English sheep sent out; but the progress of improvement has been most rapid since the introduction of the fine woolled sheep of Germany.

Mr. THOMAS LEGG, woolstapler, Bermondsey.—The wools from New South Wales generally come in fleece in a very bad state. I am well acquainted with New South Wales wool; I have sold a great deal of it; the first New South Wales wool ever used for combing purposes, I sold to a manufacturer in the North. It is almost of every quality which can grow upon a sheep. Macarthur's wools, when they are taken great care of, are strongest in the staple, and best adapted for manufacturing purposes of any that come in; but in Van Diemen's Land, and other parts, they take very little care of it; it comes in the gross, [he probably meant in the grease,] and it sells at a low price. It would be very good wool if it was taken care of. As the colony increases, the sheep increase very much. The wool is not likely to displace the Kent wool. There are some of them of very beautiful quality, as good as any of the German wools.

Mr. THOMAS EBSWORTH, wool broker, London.—I am acquainted with the wool of New South Wales. Some part of it is very fine in quality. In a few years I conceive we shall have a very large quantity of very fine wool from that colony. The peculiarity of the climate of New South Wales appears to have a very great effect on the wool, so as to reduce it from a harshness to a very fine texture. It has an effect on the sheep that were originally there to a very great degree. I can safely say, that the improvement within the last twelve months has been at least forty per cent. in quality on the inferior woolled sheep.

Mr. JAMES BISCHOFF, merchant, London.—I think the colonies of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land are capable of producing fine wools to a very great extent, but it must be a long period to look forward to before those colonies

can supply this country, so as to render us independent of foreign supply.

Mr. WILLIAM IRELAND, manufacturer, Gloucestershire.—I think the wools of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land are improving, but it must require time to extend the supply.

Having now extracted from the evidence given before the House of Lords such parts as relate to the different subjects to which the Committee of the House of Lords drew their lordships' attention, it is right to add some which appear important, but to which no allusion was made.

1. *The quantity of wool produced in the United Kingdom, and in different districts thereof.*

Mr. JOHN ELLMAN, Jun., Lewes, farmer.—I have a calculation of the whole quantity of short wool grown in the kingdom annually, and I make it about 55,000,000 lbs. The growth in Sussex is 2,400,000 lbs.

J. L. CALCRAFT, Esq., Lincolnshire.—I have made a rough calculation of what we suppose the county of Lincoln to contain in sheep. The number of sheep we suppose the county of Lincoln to contain is 1,834,782: they suppose them to clip 7 lbs. of wool each: total, 12,843,474 lbs.

Mr. JAMES HUBBARD, woolstapler, Leeds.—In 1800, Mr. Luccock estimated the produce of England and Wales to be 323,326 packs, or 94,498,240 lbs. of wool. In 1828, my estimate was 463,169 packs, or 110,164,760 lbs., taking the same number of sheep now as in 1800.

2. *On the exportation of British wool.*

Mr. JOHN ELLMAN, Jun., farmer, Lewes.—I have exported British wool from Newhaven to Dieppe. The French custom-house levy a duty thereon of 33 per cent.

Mr. HENRY BOYS, farmer, Waldershare, Kent.—I do not conceive that the permission to export British wool has been any benefit whatever to the flock master. I sent my wool to Paris two years ago; it being for Government purposes, the duty on the other side was remitted. Ten sous per lb. was demanded, which was about 33 per cent. I got 11d. per lb. for the clip of two years.

Mr. RICHARD HEALY, farmer, Laughton, Lincolnshire.—So far as I have had the means of judging, I do not conceive that the permission to export long wool has been of any benefit to the long wool grower. I never heard of a single instance of any agent being employed in Lincolnshire for the purpose of purchasing wool for exportation. With respect to the exportation of sheep, I feel a great difficulty in giving an opinion. Ultimately, I should say it would have a tendency to be very injurious to the British occupier of land.

Mr. THOMAS LEGG, woolstapler, Bermondsey.—I have sold some quantity of British wool to be exported to France, within the last eighteen months; as far as my recollection goes, perhaps about 200 packs of long wool. The means which have been made use of are, I think, likely to do the English manufacturer injury in the foreign markets. The laws of the country have permitted the exportation of long wool, which was the natural produce of this country, and from our local situation we had extensive trade, or rather exclusive trade. We have given the foreigner an opportunity to come into our market and buy that wool, to make a description of goods to compete with us in the foreign market, which, until allowed to do so by the laws being altered, he had not an opportunity of doing; and though it may be to me, as a London woolstapler, of as much benefit (the exportation of long wool) as any one in the country, because that is principally my trade, I must say it is with sorrow and regret I see the wool go out; and for this reason, because that must employ the people in the neighbouring nations to the injury of the people in our own country, for while we kept the long wool to ourselves, we had the exclusive trade; that going away, they are enabled to make goods, from the cheapness of labour, that I fear will very much compete with the piece goods chiefly made in the Yorkshire market. The permission given to export long wool has facilitated very much the operation of the foreign manufacturer in a certain description of goods, which our wools will make, and which no others will make. If the growth of wools abroad was long wools, and they could get them at a cheaper rate than I can, that would be a great injury; but when that wool, which is the growth of our natural soil, is allowed to go out,

that gets into the hands of foreign manufacturers to compete with us, when competition could not arise if he had not the raw material. Not being a manufacturer, I may not state the case with that accuracy I could wish; but as far as my knowledge goes, from my intercourse with the north country manufacturers, if you have a pack of long wool of the best class that is grown in Kent, which we term super matching, or long drawing, if that pack is manufactured into goods here, it is principally used for bombazines, and then sold in the foreign markets. The difference of price it produces, when manufactured, must be an advantage to the country where it is manufactured; but if you let it go, and it is used in France, where they are very anxious to make bombazines, as I know, having been there to see it, and they cannot obtain the wool elsewhere than here, which I know to be the case—and then that will enable them to make bombazines to compete with us—and we shall then lose that part of the trade. As they have a great portion of long wool from this country, which wool has always been used up at home, it has never been left on hand to any extent; a grower of wool will like to sell it at a better price; but, generally speaking, the growth of long wool has been used within the year, there has been no great surplus remaining for some years past; therefore I have felt myself that it has been a great pity that this wool should be sent out to divide the trade, and employ the people of another country when it ought to be used here.

Mr. HENRY KING, farmer, Chilmark, Wilts.—Permission to export British wool has not been of the least advantage to the farmers in our neighbourhood.

Mr. R. BROWN, farmer, Hinton, Wilts.—The permission to export British wool has been of no advantage whatever to myself or to any of my neighbours.

Mr. THOMAS DUKE, near Arundel, Sussex, farmer.—I have never understood that the permission to export British wool has been of any advantage whatever to the flock master.

C. C. WESTERN, Esq., M. P. for Essex.—The returns will show that permission to export British wool has evidently been of no service to the British flock master. It was our hope at the time, I remember, that we should have a very considerable export of yarn, on account of the superiority of

spinning both of the long wool and the fine wool, in which we so much excel, particularly in Yorkshire. I thought there would have been a considerable part of that exported, but I rather think the French have laid so heavy a duty, that we are shut out there.

Mr. WILLIAM NOTTIDGE, woolstapler, Bermondsey.—I consider that the extent to which the exportation of British wool has already gone, has had very little effect upon the market. I am not capable of judging as to the hope entertained respecting that trade, but do not think any advantage is expected from the exportation of fine British wool. We have sent a little, mostly long wool, to France lately. I conceive the exportation must be detrimental to the British manufacturer.

Mr. JOHN VARLEY, manufacturer, Stanningley, Yorkshire.—I do not export any British wool. I do not think it unwise at all to allow our long wool and long-woolled sheep to be exported; let us have fair play. If our English farmers can do better with exporting anything they have, let them send it. I have always been of that opinion since I have been in business. There was a considerable difference of opinion in Yorkshire upon that subject, when the permission to export was before Parliament; but the same people see their error; they have now no objection to the export of long wool, and seem to be quite satisfied generally. The quantity sent abroad is so trifling, that I do not know that it is felt scarcely. If a great quantity is sent abroad, perhaps it may be a loss to the country; but I should hardly think it would do the foreigner any good; the duty he has to pay in bringing it in is so great, we should beat them.

Mr. JOHN SUTCLIFFE, woolstapler, Huddersfield.—I have never exported British wool. I do not see that the manufacturers will suffer by the export of our wool; perhaps it is the landholders of the kingdom generally that will suffer by the export, by the taking away the employment of the population that would have worked it; the manufacturers certainly must suffer; there is an immense sum embarked in mills and machinery, and it would be a dreadfully serious thing if their mills were stopped, and the manufacturers may lose by the exportation of a considerable quantity of long wool.

Mr. JOSEPH SWAINE, merchant and manufacturer, Gomersal.—My opinion of the effect of permission to export British wool is, that if I had not an establishment in England, I would sooner establish myself on the continent, with the advantages now offered there, and purchase in part British wools to use with foreign.

Mr. GEORGE GOODMAN, wool factor, Leeds.—We have never exported any wool, except to Ireland; we have occasionally sent there. A considerable quantity of long wool has been sent from Kent to the continent of Europe; that trade has increased very much in the present year, and it is considered an increasing trade, and Kent wools have risen in consequence. Worsted yarn is also exported; it is an increasing trade, materially increasing; it is entirely manufactured from long wool. I think there will be a considerable export of long wool to France; a great share of the yarn goes to France and the Netherlands. I think the exportation of long wool is likely to be injurious to the manufacturer, inasmuch as it must be profitable to our country to send it out in a manufactured rather than in a raw state; nevertheless, the system of reciprocity I cannot but think favourable to the general interests of the country. I prefer the system of reciprocity to a monopoly of the English wool; at one time my view was not the same, but now I do think it decidedly more favourable to leave it open.

Mr. BENJAMIN GOTT, merchant and manufacturer, Leeds.—I have an opinion with respect to the export of British wool, and if urged to declare it I would say, let the wool of this country be exported as freely as possible, provided the duty of one penny per pound on wool, and the duties on oil, &c., be taken off. I have no idea much will go. I had rather meet all competition on our own soil, provided there be no taxes laid on the articles we manufacture; that they should export as freely as all the products of the soil, provided at the same time there be no duties imposed upon us; that we take them on a fair footing, for our resources are greater than those of any other nation. I have heard that there is an increased exportation of British wool and yarn, and I have no objection to it at all. I have no objection to duties being taken off on the export of British wool; my own

opinion is, that there would be no harm from it; but that would be a very unpopular opinion in the county of York, among the long wool dealers. I think the exportation of sheep would be a misfortune to the wool growers; that they will introduce into Germany a breed that will soon destroy their own sales.

Mr. JAMES BISCHOFF, merchant, London.—I was of opinion that it would be highly injurious to the manufacturer to permit the exportation of British wool and worsted yarn. I am not of that opinion now. In the pamphlet I wrote, and which has been referred to, (“Reasons for the Immediate Repeal of the Duty on Foreign Wool,”) and in a letter I wrote to Mr. Maitland, and which was published in his book, I made use of a very strong expression, that “If British wool was to accumulate on the hands of the growers, it might be more for the interest of this country that Government shall buy it and burn it than that it should be allowed to be exported.” I believe that was as strong an expression as could be well used; it excited a good deal of attention at that time. The question is altered from two circumstances, both approaching the same point; one is from the increased length in the staple of wool, from the increased weight of the fleece, particularly South Down wool, and the other circumstance is the improvement in machinery. They are now by those improvements enabled to comb wool of three inches length of staple, whereas at that time they could comb wool only of five inches in length; the quantity of long wool was at that time computed as one-third of the quantity of wool produced in Great Britain, and there is now double that quantity applicable to combing purposes. I was then under alarm at the consequences of the exportation of wool, because long wool was considered peculiar to this country, and it was one of the most valuable raw materials we possessed before the improvements in machinery for combing; in some trades it was increased fifteen times in the process of manufacture. The exportation of sheep to the continent has been considerable, and there is little doubt that wool long enough for the present process of combing will be grown there quite as well as it is here. The improvement of machinery in the spinning of worsted and manufacturing it, has taken a great deal from

the labour which was formerly given to it, so that in that respect the exportation of British wool would not deprive the country now of so much labour as it formerly obtained from it; that is, a piece of stuff goods is made at less expense than formerly. By these improvements in machinery, foreign manufacturers are now enabled to apply some sorts of wool of their own growth to the worsted trade, which they could not do formerly.

3. *On the qualities of foreign wools.*

Mr. THOMAS LEGG, woolstapler, Bermondsey.—Low priced wools come from the following countries. The lowest qualities come from Iceland, Denmark, Russia, Smyrna, and some from South America. The last foreign wools I bought were a cargo of Iceland wools. I purchased one part at 4½d. per lb., and the other at 5½d. per lb.; they are not so good for manufacturing purposes as the coarsest wools of this country, but they do very well, for, being a very low price, they assist to make coarse goods of low price better than our own alone; they are used generally for horse cloths and collar cloths, and common blankets, and rugs for covering soldiers' beds. There is a great quantity of blankets exported to America. We sent a few bags of long wool to America—a very small portion: the principal part was sent to Lisle. I am afraid the trade is increasing; every month or few months they appear to increase their purchases.

Mr. ROBERT JOWITT, woolstapler, Leeds.—When we first began the foreign wool trade, we sold chiefly Spanish wool. German wool has now taken the place of Spanish, from its superior quality, from its being softer: to use the expression of the manufacturer, *proving better*, that is, answering better, making a softer cloth, and their being able to spin it to a greater length; these are precisely the qualities that our finer English wools are deficient in. I apprehend that Spanish wool is not quite equal to what it used to be; whether they have paid less attention to their flocks, I cannot say, but it is not got up so well as it used to be; but Spanish wool, compared to German, looking simply at the hair, is finer at the same price.

Mr. ED. C. HOHLER, London.—From information obtained from a gentleman intimately acquainted with foreign

wool, respecting the importations of different qualities, the result is the following :—For German the importations are, that the inferior and middling descriptions exceed the fine considerably, and the annexed is a full demonstration :—Divide *Saxon Wool* into twenty parts, the assortment is—

2 from 6s. 6d. to 7s. 6d.	per pound.
6 from 3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.	„
6 from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 6d.	„
6 from 1s. 8d. to 2s. 6d.	„

20

The proportion of *Austrian* into thirty parts—

5 from 4s. 6d. to 6s. 6d.	per pound.
10 from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 9d.	„
15 from 1s. 6d. to 2s.	„

30

The qualities of *Spanish wool* are imported in equal proportions, and *New South Wales*, the three-fourths of which run from 9d. to 1s. 6d. per lb., and one-fourth from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. per lb. Say twenty millions of pounds of wool is the import from Germany, and allow ten millions to Saxony, and ten millions to Austria, the following will be their average prices :—

$\frac{1}{10}$ average 7s. 6d. per lb.	} or total average of Saxony
$\frac{2}{10}$ „ 1s. 11d. per lb.	
$\frac{1}{8}$ average 5s. 6d. per lb.	} or total average of Austria
$\frac{7}{8}$ average 1s. 6½d. per lb.	
	is 2s. 2½d. per lb.

And from thence we have a general average from Germany, at about 2s. 4d. per lb.

4. *Qualities of British and Irish wools.*

Mr. THOMAS LEGG, woolstapler, Bermondsey.—In every fleece there are six or seven, or eight or ten kinds of wool. If I take a South Down fleece at the shoulders and neck of that fleece, the wool is fit for clothing purposes or for making fine flannels; at the breech of that fleece it is fit only for making blankets. Irish wools are principally used for combing purposes, similar to the Kent Marsh wool.

LORD NAPIER.—I am sure that in the last twenty years, the wools in Scotland have improved in quantity, and in quality very much indeed.

5. *Cost of manufacture.*

Mr. GEORGE WEBB HALL, farmer, Gloucestershire.—I had some of my wool manufactured into cloth. I paid 8s. 6d. to 9s. 6d. per yard for manufacturing broad cloth, and 5s. 6d. per yard for kerseymeres.

Mr. JOHN VARLEY, manufacturer, Stanningley.—In goods manufactured of low priced wool at 4d. per lb., the cost of labour would be 5d. I mean to say, with wool costing fourpence per lb., the labour and materials would, when manufactured, make it amount to ninepence when exported. The proportion of cost is in each article that we manufacture according to the price of wool, taking it from the lowest to the highest. In the lower qualities, as compared, the labour bears a higher proportion upon the cost than it does upon fine ones; as for instance, if wool costs 3s. per lb., it will take full 2 lbs. to the yard to make it, and we could make that come in for perhaps 10s. 6d. or 11s. per yard: we could do it very well at 12s. per yard, that is, double it. Upon the lower qualities again, it bears scarcely so much. It divides itself as it were between the 5d. and what I am now stating; in proportion to the price, it augments or diminishes the cloth; but in ladies' cloths and pelisses, the wages are considerably more, with regard to the difference of price, than they are in cloths; for instance, the labour is greater; it is to be spun finer, and set finer; and it takes more money to get the same pound of wool up, than it does in what I call fine cloths. The weight of army cloth is 11lb. 10oz. to the yard. It stands in thus; at present £5, the raw material costs in wool, and I get it back again for about £12 10s. About £7 10s. is added. I have manufactured cloth for some gentlemen from their own wool this spring: I charged 9s. per yard. For nap coatings we use about a 1½lb. per yard, and the labour is about the price of the wool. It strikes me that the wages of our workmen are increased by the price of corn in this country. Supposing all the duties that are applicable to our manufactures were taken off, I should be willing to have the duty on foreign cloth taken off.

Mr. THOMAS COOK, merchant manufacturer, Dewsbury.—In the manufacture of low cloths and blankets, I conceive that about thirteen parts of the cost will be labour out of

twenty-eight parts ; about fifteen will be material. The amount of wages paid to manufacturers in our neighbourhood upon the 10,000 bags of foreign wool which we consume, would be £8000 to £9000.

Mr. J. BROOKE, manufacturer, Dewsbury.—The pound of wool which costs 6d. is worth 15d. per lb. when manufactured into blankets.

Mr. GEORGE GOODMAN, wool-merchant, Leeds.—When English wool is charged out to our manufacturers at 16d. per lb., and foreign at 18d. per lb., they deliver goods back again in browns and olives at 6s. 10d. per yard, and in blue 7s. 10d. per yard.

Mr. BENJAMIN GOTT, merchant manufacturer, Leeds.—Whatever be the cost of wool, fifty per cent. upon that would be the price of the article when in a complete state of manufacture for sale. The expense of manufacturing does not always, however, depend on the value of the raw material. We have at present wool at 3s. per lb.: if it required two pounds and a quarter to manufacture a yard of cloth, that would be 6s. 9d., and in the finished state the cloth would be 13s. 6d. per yard ; that is, the manufacture would cost as much as the wool : but if, from any circumstance, that same quality of wool was double the price it now is, the manufacturing expense would remain the same ; in one instance the manufacturing part is now half the value of the whole, 50 per cent., then it would be thirty-three and a third per cent. In 1817 cloth of the same quality as at present cost 18s. 6d., it now costs 11s. 1d. per yard : the price of manufacture was the same then as now, except 15 per cent. less on weaver's wages. There was then a reduction in the manufacture of fifteen per cent. ; we had a difficulty in meeting foreign competition, and we represented this to our workmen, and they consented to reduce their wages fifteen per cent.

Mr. WILLIAM IRELAND, manufacturer, Gloucestershire.—Spanish striped cloths cost us £4 4s. to £4 10s. manufacturing, per piece ; we sell them at £7 7s. to £7 10s. per piece, so that there is five-eighths labour.

6. *The former and present state of the woollen manufactures.*

Mr. GERVASE WALKER, manufacturer, near Wakefield.—I

think the woollen trade, in which I am engaged, was a good deal better before the tax was laid on the importation of foreign wool. I am alluding to myself as a domestic manufacturer; I do not mean to say the trade is bad, but it has changed hands considerably; and we, attending the cloth halls, find it very difficult to meet the markets, so that I am almost disposed to give up business. I mean by a domestic manufacturer, a man who makes his goods in his own house or shop, and distinguish him from the merchant manufacturer, who makes goods in the great manufactories. Formerly the manufacture of cloth was wholly in the hands of those persons whom I call domestic manufacturers; the course of the manufacture has changed, and got into the hands of the great manufacturers, who manufacture in the great mills and buildings of that description, so that the manufacturing population is collected in great masses in the mills, instead of being in their own houses. My conviction is that this change is a great injury; as a proof of that, in our village (which was formerly occupied by domestic manufacturers alone) we have between 400 and 500 houses, and there are eighty houses standing empty; the hands have removed to Leeds and Huddersfield, to the merchant manufacturers. This change is not conducive to morality and the well-being of that population. I conceive this change has originated from the customers of those merchant manufacturers believing they can supply them better, being the manufacturers, than a middle man coming in between them; they conceive there is only one profit. Now I think it not difficult to convince any man we can manufacture cloths in the country cheaper than the merchant manufacturer can. The merchant manufacturer still buys such goods as he does not make himself from the domestic manufacturers.

Mr. BENJAMIN GOTT, merchant manufacturer, Leeds.—Our trade is of two descriptions. Without, I hope, occupying the time of your lordships, it is better to explain that the trade of Yorkshire was in the hands of what are called domestic manufacturers throughout. After the discovery of improvements in machinery, capital came more into application of the manufactures than before; and that capital being applied to large concerns, there were two descriptions

of men,—the merchant who formerly used to buy of the manufacturer, and those who employed capital as manufacturers themselves, distinct from what we call the domestic manufacturer. I was of that description. I was a merchant buyer in the halls before machinery was introduced; and since machinery has been introduced, I have become a manufacturer of certain descriptions of cloths and blankets. At present I manufacture cloth entirely from foreign wool in our own works, and I purchase of the country manufacturers cloth and blankets made of English wool, and English wool mixed with foreign, and foreign wool only. I began to be a merchant manufacturer about the year 1824. There was no foreign wool used in Yorkshire when I first knew the trade. The foreigners had the advantage of supplying the continent with fine cloth before the machinery was introduced, and the West of England manufactured foreign wool for the supply of this country. After capital became involved with machinery, I took up the manufacture of foreign wool, without lessening our consumption of English wool; on the contrary, I maintain that the introduction of foreign wool has tended to increase the use of English wool, and to raise the price of it. Brabant had the foreign supply, the West of England had possession of the home market in fine cloth, and Yorkshire supplied the country with coarser cloths. These cloths of finer wools were introduced into our manufactures, as the United States of America increased and demanded them, and as they had imported all their coarse cloths, they became importers of fine cloths, and as the demand came for the coarse and the fine, we manufactured both in Yorkshire; that was the origin of our fine cloth trade.

Mr. JAS. BISCHOFF, merchant, London.—Not having been in Yorkshire for two years, I cannot from my own knowledge say whether the domestic manufacturers are or are not in as thriving a situation as the merchant manufacturer; but from the communications I have had, I should think that those who have large factories are in a more prosperous state than the small manufacturers. I do not think they are driving out the domestic manufacturers; the large manufactories have increased, but the extent of the manufacture has also increased. I understand Mr. Gott has not reduced his purchases from

the domestic manufacturers, though his trade generally has increased.

7. The former and present state of the woollen manufactures of foreign countries, and their means of competing with the British manufacturer.

Mr. HENRY HUGHES, wool broker, London.—I travelled for the woollen trade on the continent many years ago. At that time they knew not anything of the making of kerseymeres, but through the great intercourse there has been with foreigners and this country of late years, and the great advantages they have derived from visiting our manufactories, they have greatly improved their manufactures; and I believe it is a system with all the continental states—in Russia it is particularly the case, where they take nothing like what they used to do—they have excluded us, and are excluding us as fast as they can; so they do also in other states, having in view their own manufactures. If the woollen manufactures on the continent still continue to make such rapid improvement, they may be able to compete with us in South America; they have certainly a great advantage over us, as they manufacture the wool on the spot, and have no duty to pay for it, and the transit of course must help them materially. Great quantities of all the finer cloths were imported here about three or four years ago, on the warehousing act coming into force, and which found their way to distant markets where they were never before known; and within the last two or three years there have been certain companies formed on the continent for the purpose of capital, to trade with those foreign markets which used to be formerly our own. The lower descriptions of foreign manufactured goods are equal to our own, and much inferior in price. If I go down to cloths of 3s. to 4s. per yard, I should say they were better worth the money than we could purchase in Yorkshire; but with respect to fine German cloths, made from Saxon wool, my belief is, that we are at present in such a state of perfection in making cloth in this country, that there is no better cloth made in any part of the world. There is a prejudice in favour of our cloth in this country, to the exclusion of foreign cloths. I speak now of Germany generally; they have

also a prejudice in favour of French cloths; they will buy them in preference to the English superfine cloths; and if I may judge of the cause of that prejudice, it is this,—that the French used German wool long before we did; and at that period (twenty years ago) they made much finer cloth than our manufacturers did, because we were then in the habit only of receiving wools from Spain, but the French had long before that gone into the German markets. The opinion was, and justly so, that the French cloths were superior to our English cloths. From my experience in the cloth trade for twenty-seven years, I should say that the English cloth wears quite as good as any French cloth; certainly they do in France, or they used to do, put more wool into the cloth than the English manufacturers, but that has long ceased. Our black cloths are superior to the French, but that used to be quite the contrary, for all the world ran upon French blacks. They dye blue cloths equally with us. If an English cloth at 15s. per yard, and foreign cloth at 15s. per yard, were shown side by side for sale, I should say that English cloth would have the preference of at least fifteen per cent., taking the width to be alike. As a proof of this fact, I had some Italians the other day in my warehouse, who had come over for the sole purpose of ascertaining whether they could make their purchases better in England than in France; and these Italian merchants certainly purchased some cloths here, conceiving they could buy them quite as well as they could in France. From experience I am satisfied they would give the preference to French cloths, because they could get them home at much less expense. Still I sold them some English cloth. I showed them some French cloth in my warehouse, which they declined purchasing.

Mr. JOHN SUTCLIFFE, woolstapler, Huddersfield.—They are getting into such a state of perfection in foreign cloth, that they are rivalling us very closely, and making very good cloth.

Mr. BENJAMIN GOTT, merchant manufacturer, Leeds.—With regard to the competition which exists now between the foreigners and this country in woollen cloths, I think the competition is very strong; in some instances the foreigner has

probably the advantage, and in others the superiority of British manufacture, I think, has greatly the advantage: that would apply, I should say, particularly to the fine cloths of Great Britain compared with foreign cloths; that in the low cloths of some descriptions, the foreigners are nearly on a footing, and in some instances, perhaps, superior to us. I am not of opinion that the French black cloth is superior to ours in point of dyeing, or in any other process. I believe there is not much room for improvement in machinery abroad; they have nearly the whole machinery we have of all descriptions, at all the principal manufactories abroad, both in America and Europe. I do not know if there is room for either improvement or extension of machinery abroad. I do not know the extent of human talent; at present all the improvements we have are known abroad, and their improvements are known to us. What means they have of adapting other improvements to the public taste I cannot anticipate. If any improvements should take place on the continent, I think we should adopt them immediately, and meet them with success, for we have coals cheaper than they have, and could apply the improvements they make to equal advantage with them: they have an advantage in point of carriage of wool of about 35s. on 240 lbs. in Germany; but in Flanders and France the difference, I conceive, is not more than one penny per lb.

Mr. THOMAS SHEPPARD, Blackwell Hall factor, London.—I saw a considerable quantity of German cloth during the former duty of sixpence per lb. on wool, and I looked at it with astonishment. I said, provide me this wool, and I will send you the money you ask for the cloth. I should have been glad to have given them for the wool alone nearly as much as the price of the cloth; it was cloth for South America charged 4s. to 5s. per yard. The German cloths are not so well manufactured as ours, particularly the low-priced cloth. I believe the Prussian cloths are manufactured with a great deal of address, and I think they are our most powerful rivals.

Mr. JAMES BISCHOFF, merchant, London.—From what I have seen, I should say that cloth made in England of foreign wool, is quite as good as foreign cloth.

Mr. WILLIAM IRELAND, Blackwell Hall factor, London, and manufacturer, Gloucestershire.—The manufacturers on the continent are opposing us so strongly, even with the present price of wool, we can hardly compete with them. Cloths manufactured by me were sent to Calcutta; they were sold for nearly thirty per cent. less than the invoice price. When we made inquiry how the loss arose, we were informed they were so competed with by goods of a similar description manufactured in Germany, Flanders, and France, that they had lowered the market price, and that if our cloths were kept any longer, there was no probability of their fetching more money. I think the manufacturers in Germany make as good cloths as we do.

CHAPTER VII.

1828 AND 1829.

Report of the Lords' Committee—Earl Stanhope's Notice of Motion thereon—Lord Wharncliffe's Question to the Duke of Wellington—Discussion thereon in the House of Lords—A Letter to the Owners and Occupiers of Sheep Farms, by Earl Stanhope—Abstract of Evidence taken before a Select Committee of the House of Lords, appointed to take into consideration the state of the British Wool Trade, by Earl Stanhope—The Woollen Question Considered ; being an Examination of the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Lords appointed to take into Consideration the State of the British Woollen Trade, and an Answer to Earl Stanhope's Letter to the Owners and Occupiers of Sheep Farms, by James Bischoff—On the Wool Trade, with Considerations on the Effect of Duty on Importation, by Edward Swaine—Table of the Exports of Woollens to foreign States, and to British Possessions—Resolutions moved by the Duke of Richmond, 1829—Table of Weights of Wool exported—Discussion in the House of Lords—Tables prepared by the Duke of Richmond.

HAVING thus endeavoured to give impartially the evidence elicited before the committee of the House of Lords, and put under distinct heads the information obtained, as well from the witnesses examined on the part of the agriculturists, as of the manufacturers, in their own words, it will be easy to refer to any particular subject, and see at one view the result of that investigation.

The Report itself occupies six hundred and ninety seven pages folio, as printed by order of the House of Lords ; the report of the committee was a mere reference to the evidence given, and in the following words :—

“ Report by the Select Committee of the House of Lords, to take into consideration the state of the British Wool trade, and to report to the House ; and to whom were referred the several petitions relative to the Wool trade, which have been presented to the House in the present session ; and

also certain accounts and papers on the subject of Wool, which have been laid upon the table of the House.

“ Ordered to report.—That in obedience to the commands of your lordships, the committee have met, and have examined several witnesses upon the matters referred to them, and submit to the consideration of your lordships the whole of the evidence they have received.

“ They have directed their inquiries principally to the following matters.*

“ In order to bring under general view the documents which have been laid before the House relating to the subject, and for the purpose of more convenient reference, the committee have directed that those documents should be added in an appendix to the report, and have subjoined a general index.

“ June 27th, 1828.”

The report was laid upon the table of the House of Lords without any debate, and with a mere intimation from Earl Stanhope, that if not taken up by any other, he should bring the question forward with a view to the protection of the wool growers.

In consequence of that intimation, and the doubt and uncertainty which would continue upon the wool and woollen trade, (the deputies from the manufacturing districts having returned home,) Mr. Bischoff requested Lord Wharncliffe would put such questions to the Duke of Wellington, being the First Lord of the Treasury, as would ascertain the opinion and intentions of Government on the subject; and in the course of a few days, viz. on the 15th July,—

LORD WHARNCLIFFE said—The House would recollect that when a Noble Duke (the Duke of Richmond) not then in his place, moved for a committee to inquire into the state of the wool trade, with a view to imposing a tax on foreign wool, the Noble Duke at the head of the administration stated, that he consented to the appointment of the committee, but he did so with the conviction on his own mind, that an additional duty was not required, and that he believed the labours of the committee would show, that it was not only not necessary, but not called for. The committee, as their lordships

* These were enumerated in the last two chapters.

were aware, had produced a very large body of evidence. The manufacturers were very desirous of knowing what might be the opinion of government in respect to the evidence produced, and the question he took the liberty of asking was, whether, under the circumstances to which allusion had been made, it was the intention of His Majesty's Ministers to impose any additional duty on wool? The Noble Duke would excuse him in asking the question, as there was a great body of manufacturers in whose welfare he felt deeply interested, who were exceedingly anxious to know what were the feelings of Government in respect of the evidence before the committee.

The Duke of WELLINGTON observed, that so far as he had perused the evidence taken before the committee, no change had taken place in the opinions which he had previously entertained on the subject, but, on the contrary, those opinions were confirmed rather than otherwise. At the same time that he admitted this, he must be permitted to state, that such a mass of information had been collected on the subject, that it would be exceedingly improper in him to pledge His Majesty's Government to any particular line respecting the subject of inquiry; but this he would say, that it was very improbable that Government would do anything likely to excite alarm among those of His Majesty's subjects to whom the Noble Lord had alluded. Having said this, he would only say on that part of the subject, that not having his attention called to all the report, he was not competent to give a decided opinion on the whole. It had been clearly established before the committee, that there was a considerable fall in the price of wool,—that the owners of land where only sheep were kept, obtained but little rent. He must say that it appeared to him, from the evidence which he had seen, that the fall in the price of British wool had been in some measure occasioned by the improvements in agriculture, by increasing the number of sheep. The breed had been improved as to size, but as the wool was increased in quantity, so it decreased in quality. In former days people were in the habit of wearing cloths of an inferior description; now, instead of using those coarse cloths, the best description of cloth, which could only be produced by foreign wool, was worn. If a tax were

to be imposed on foreign wool, with a view of raising the price of coarse British wool, which wool was not fit for the production of cloth of a fine quality, much injustice would be done to the manufacturer of the foreign-grown wool, and smuggling would be encouraged in the article which suited the taste of the country. These were the opinions which he had formed from the report on the table, in conjunction with what he had been previously made acquainted.

Earl STANHOPE trusted that some measure would be devised by Government for the protection of the wool grower. If not, the sooner the opinion of His Majesty's Ministers was known the better, in order that the farmer might throw up his lease, or call upon his landlord for a reduction of rent. Unless protection were afforded, he was satisfied that many would be ruined.

The Duke of RICHMOND having entered the House, said that he had heard of the answer given by the Duke of Wellington to the question put by Lord Wharncliffe with the greatest dismay, and he was quite sure that the Noble Duke was not aware of the injury that would flow from the denial of the protection sought. It had been said that South Down wool was deteriorated. He would undertake to prove that it had not, and that too from the evidence on their Lordships' table. Their Lordships were aware that the manufacturers of the country were in the habit of watching the movements of the Administration, and that they had a committee and a chairman to watch over their business and interests. A person holding the situation of chairman had published a work in the year 1817 on wool, but not a syllable was stated in that book on the deterioration of South Down wool. A person named Bischoff succeeded that gentleman. He was the individual who acknowledged he had sounded an alarm among the manufacturers on the question. Now he stated before the committee that South Down wool had been deteriorating ever since the year 1792. He also published a pamphlet on the subject in 1820. Did he on that occasion say one word on the deterioration of British wool? No, he did not. Would their Lordships then credit such representations as had been made on the deterioration of British wool? Or could they believe that the fact, now made the forlorn hope of the

assertors of the circumstance, was as they stated? There was one fact which he wished to name, showing that British wool did not affect the market, but foreign produce. British hogget wool obtained the best price of all British-grown wool, and why? because no foreign hogget wool was brought into the market. If their Lordships looked at the evidence, they would find that the witnesses who were examined on behalf of the manufacturers had prevaricated in a hundred instances. One of the witnesses said, that if the duty was taken off wool, not only would mutton, but corn would rise. On being shown a piece of cloth, he was asked what the wool of which it was made was worth per lb., and he replied he thought about 8d. Now, that very wool came from a pure South Down fleece, that had never been crossed. At the present late period of the session he did not intend to trouble their Lordships with a motion on the subject; he meant to leave the case as the report of the committee had left it—in their hands—contrasting the honest evidence of the farmers with the theories of the Leeds delegates. The manufacturers, he was aware, had an advantage on their side—they had opportunities of making first impressions on the minds of His Majesty's Government; they could make *ex-parte* statements to the President of the Board of Trade. The Noble Duke, he thought, only attended to one side of the question. He hoped to go into the case on a future occasion, and remove that impression. He would say no more now, than that a grievance had been proved to exist, and the agriculturists had a right to protection. He should feel it his duty to submit a motion on the subject next session of Parliament, and should never believe that their Lordships would reject protection to the agriculturists until the contents and non-contents were numbered.

LORD WHARNCLIFFE regretted the absence of the Duke of Richmond when he took the liberty of putting the question alluded to. The farmers had no right to complain of the want of an advocate, as no person could possibly have conducted their case with greater ability. With respect to what the Noble Duke had said as to the evidence of the manufacturers given before the committee—that they went before them for the purpose of telling untruths—he (Lord Wharn-

cliffe) would beg to say that this was not the fact; and if Noble Lords would go down to the country, they would find there was as much truth in the evidence of those witnesses as in the farmers. As to the deterioration of wool, he believed since the years 1820–1821 it had been noticed. Let any impartial man read the evidence which had been taken, and he would pronounce that no case had been made out for the farmer; and instead of an additional duty being beneficial to them, it was shown to be directly the reverse.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH said he was unwilling to say one word on the subject; but in consequence of what had fallen from the Duke of Richmond he was induced to offer a few observations. He had attended the committee, and he must say that he never saw witnesses give their evidence fairer than they did. Incorrect reasoning was not properly described as prevarication. The evidence on free trade, about which the witnesses had given their opinion, might not be entitled to so much attention. With regard to the deterioration of South Down wool, he must say that sufficient proof had been offered to establish that fact. Deterioration had taken place, he believed, as long ago as 1817, and from that to 1821 deterioration to a considerable extent had been proved to exist.

Soon after the discussion just mentioned took place in the House of Lords, the following pamphlets were published:—

“ A LETTER TO THE OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS OF SHEEP
“ FARMS, FROM EARL STANHOPE ;”

together with—

“ ABSTRACTS OF THE EVIDENCE TAKEN BEFORE THE SE-
“ LECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS, ap-
“ pointed to take into consideration the state of the
“ British Wool Trade,” classed under different heads.

The following are the different heads under which Earl Stanhope divided the subject:—1. Prices of wool; 2. Stocks on hand and sale; 3. Cultivation and Rents; 4. Quality of Wool; 5. Exportation of Wool; 6. Importation of Wool; 7. Duty on Wool; 8. Australian Wool; 9. Foreign Wool.

Earl Stanhope commences his "Letter to the Owners and Occupiers of Sheep Farms" thus:—

"I am desirous of calling your attention to the evidence which was received by the select committee, of which I was a member, on the state of the British wool trade, to the facts and opinions which it communicates, and to the conclusions which ought to be drawn from a consideration of them. As a preliminary measure, and in order to relieve you from the trouble of perusing the evidence itself, which consists of 599 pages in folio. I have prepared and published a full, and, to the best of my belief, an impartial abstract of that evidence, and classed it under different heads. It appeared the more requisite to form such an abstract, because even those who had the time and the patience to read such a voluminous mass of evidence might not otherwise have been able to collect easily, and class correctly those scattered fragments of valuable matter which lie, as it were, buried under a mountain, I will not say of rubbish, but of statements which are either unimportant or irrelevant.

"In comparing the past and present prices of South Down wool, it is requisite to consider its *remunerating price*, which appears to be one shilling and sixpence per lb., and this is stated by two practical farmers, Mr. Webb Hall and Mr. Healy, to be equivalent to 60s. per Winchester quarter for wheat.

"The fall in the prices of South Down wool and of Cheviot wool, since the year 1819, is at least fifty per cent., and in the same period merino wool has fallen from 2s. 3d. to 1s. 9d. per lb., and long wool from 1s. 5½d. to 11½d., being a fall of 22 per cent. on merino, and of above 35 per cent. upon long wool.

"Notwithstanding these facts, which, according to a common proverb, are stubborn things, Mr. Gott, a merchant and manufacturer, states that wool partakes only of the general fall applying to all other articles in the same or a less ratio;" and after referring to other evidence of the manufacturers confirming Mr. Gott's statement, his lordship sums up that division of the subject thus,—“I leave his evidence (that of Mr. Francis) with the disgust which it must naturally inspire, and pass to that of other witnesses, who, in defiance of all proof, maintain that the stock on hand is now diminishing.”

Lord Stanhope then proceeds to rents, referring (perhaps not quite impartially) to the evidence of Mr. Ellman, jun., and others, and to the causes of the depression both in wool and rents, stating,—“ One of those causes is unquestionably the alteration of the currency (the change from paper to gold circulation,—as it is generally termed, Mr. Peel’s Bill,—that necessary change having been caused by the bill he carried in the House of Commons); and this is the opinion not only of Mr. Western himself, but also of Mr. Healy, a farmer, and of several woolstaplers, and of a manufacturer; and it is thought by several witnesses, that the total suppression of small notes in England will still further reduce the prices of wool. In these opinions I entirely concur; but the alterations in the currency explain only to a certain degree, and not in its full extent, the depression in the price of wool; for it is quite obvious that it could not operate more upon wool than upon other articles, which, as is well known, have not sustained a similar reduction in their value.

“ One of the supposed causes upon which the manufacturers lay great stress, is the deterioration that they allege to have taken place in the quality of South Down wool.”

Lord Stanhope denies the deterioration of South Down wool, except where the breed has been crossed, and after commenting upon the evidence, proceeds to the effect of the importation of foreign wool; and, after alluding to the evidence of manufacturers on that subject, his lordship says,—

“ These great political economists, who appear to be worthy disciples of some of the late Cabinet Ministers, will, I hope, for the sake of their own consistency, be ready to admit that a free trade in cloths, in shoes, and in all other articles, which, as far as price is concerned, would be imported duty free, with great benefit to the consumers, would tend to ruin the prices of those articles in the home market.”

Lord Stanhope again alludes to the change of currency,—

“ The date of Mr. Peel’s bill, which was so tremendous in its operation, and was in fact an ‘*edict of confiscation*,’ seems to have been unknown or forgotten by the witness (Mr. Cunningham), although he speaks of a fall in the price of wool, in the very year when the bill passed.”

Lord Stanhope concludes,—

“ With respect to the wools of our own colonies, it would be better even that a bounty should be granted, than that any duty should be imposed on their importation ; and with respect to a duty on continental wools, two very opposite and contradictory opinions have been expressed. One of our friends stated in Parliament that he thought a duty of 6d. per lb. would give an excessive protection, and another has since told me that the same duty would not, in his opinion, be sufficient, and would still allow foreign wools to supersede our own. As to the first of these remarks, the remunerating price of South Down wool being not less than 1s. 6d. per lb., a duty of 6d. per lb. on those descriptions of wool which might compete with it is only a duty of 33 per cent., and cannot surely be called ‘ excessive.’ It is about the same that is granted upon foreign silks, and upon many other manufactured goods, which are much less important to this country than the growth of wool. As to the second of these remarks, I must observe, that if the object could not be attained by a 6d. duty, I would recommend an absolute prohibition.

“ The duty being intended not for revenue but for protection, it would be no loss to the State if even the whole amount which had been received for duty were to be returned in a drawback, and as three-fourths of the whole foreign wool imported are consumed in Great Britain, the drawback would be granted only on one-fourth part of the quantity imported.* With such an arrangement, the manufacturers could not reasonably fear that their *real interests* would be injured, or that their *legitimate profits* would be lost. Their *real interests* would be best promoted by the prosperity of their customers at home, by increasing, and not by reducing, the means of consumption in our own markets. Their *legitimate profits* are not such as they derive from those low prices which impoverish one portion of the community for the apparent, though not for the permanent advantage of another, and which are utterly incompatible with high taxation.

“ The price of South Down wool in the year 1759 appears, by an account produced by Mr. Legg, to have been 8½d.

* Lord Stanhope does not allude to the difficulty, if not impossibility, of arranging the drawback so that it should fall on foreign wool alone exported when manufactured.

per lb., which is about its present value. At that period, the debts and taxes, and poor rates, and all the other burthens, were very trifling in their amount, as compared with what they are now; and if they could be reduced to what they were then, you would not complain of the present low prices, or suffer from their effects. The only practicable mode of sustaining the present burthens, is to be found in prices which in their amount are proportional to those burthens; and to suppose the contrary, would be as monstrous an absurdity as that which I once heard from a political economist, who very gravely told me, that if the price of a quarter of wheat could be permanently reduced in this country from sixty shillings to ten, it would still be possible to raise annually fifty millions of taxes.

“ You, who are the wool growers, suffer in common with the corn growers, with the shipowners, and with many other classes of society, from new and pernicious systems which have been adopted, and, in common with all classes, from the alteration of the currency. No change has yet taken place in those fatal systems which have been the fruitful source of such calamities, and may ultimately produce consequences of which, at present, I forbear to speak. No redress has yet been granted, neither justice nor protection has been received, and too many of you have reason to exclaim with Mr. Duke, in addressing the committee, ‘ May I pray your lordships to take this case into serious consideration, and to save me and my brother flock-masters from utter ruin.’

“ As an individual, I am little interested in the prices of wool, but I should consider it a dereliction of my duty as a public man, to you and to my country, if I were to remain silent upon this occasion; and the cause of British agriculture, whenever it can be protected or promoted, will always find a zealous advocate in your faithful servant,

“ STANHOPE.”

His lordship's estates in Surrey contain some of the most extensive sheep-walks in the kingdom.

The above pamphlet was followed by—

"THE WOOL QUESTION CONSIDERED, being an Examination of the Report from the Select Committee of the House of Lords, appointed to take into consideration the State of the British Wool Trade; and an ANSWER to EARL STANHOPE'S LETTER to the OWNERS and OCCUPIERS of SHEEP FARMS. By JAMES BISCHOFF."

With respect to the investigation itself he says:—

"It might be a fit subject of inquiry, whether the House of Lords was the proper place where it ought to have begun: by the constitution of Great Britain, all taxes must originate in the House of Commons, and yet we see an inquiry commenced in the upper House, the declared object of which was *to impose a tax*. It may be said the investigation might be made in the upper, and the tax originate in the lower House; but it appears most irregular that a committee should be appointed, and that the body appointing them should not have the power to enforce what they might recommend. There was, however, obvious policy in instituting the inquiry in the House of Lords. The object stated was a tax on the importation of foreign wool; a tax, the imposition and propriety of which was disavowed by His Majesty's Government, and was intended, not for finance, not to supply the necessities of the State, but with the hope of advancing the price of British wool, or, in fact, of keeping up rents in certain districts.

"I will not here discuss the right of Parliament to impose taxes for such purposes, but if that right does exist, it may be carried to an extent fatal to the interests of the country. The tax was proposed for the avowed advantage of one class of His Majesty's subjects—the landed interest, who are represented in Parliament, to the injury of another class of subjects, the manufacturing interest, who, with few exceptions, can only be represented in Parliament by the possession of land."

Mr. Bischoff makes comments upon the different heads into which the Committee of the House of Lords had divided the subject.

"The first head to which the committee has drawn the attention of the House of Lords, would, if properly followed,

have opened a wide field for inquiry; it would have embraced the following points :—

“ The past and present state of the cultivation of different districts.

“ The past and present proportion of arable and pasture land.

“ The past and present state of rents.

“ In order to come to a fair and just conclusion upon these heads, the inquiry should not have been confined to a comparison commencing with a state of war, and ending with a state of peace ; but they should have commenced with peace, have carried on their inquiry during war, and on the return of peace, and have concluded by a comparison of the different results at each period.

“ The districts which the growers of British short wool occupy, are chiefly the light and hilly parts of Sussex, Wilts, Essex, Suffolk, and other southern counties of England and Scotland. The result of an inquiry from peace to war and war to peace, might have shown that a great proportion of those counties had ever been Downs and sheep pastures, but that in consequence of the high price of corn during the French war, they had been converted into arable land, and the plough was carried to places, which, both from the nature of their soil and their situation, could not be advantageously adapted to the growth of corn, except at very high prices. Mr. Ellman says, ‘ The very high prices of grain in the whole of the years 1810 and 1811 were a great inducement to farmers to plough up every acre of pasture they could.’

“ If, therefore, this point be established, if farmers have now land under cultivation which could be so maintained solely by war prices, and while it altered the character of the country, and the food of the sheep, depriving them of the fine herbage of the Downs, and giving them turnips and other green crops, with the weeds and thistles which are in corn stubbles, thereby deteriorating their wool, which is another subject of inquiry,—they are now bearing the consequences of their own former excitement and speculation, and it might be best that these lands should be thrown out of cultivation, and again become sheep pastures. If the committee had asked the Sussex farmers the relative proportion

of their arable land now, and in the year 1790, this point might have been cleared up, and with it, reasons given for the distress which is alleged to exist amongst the growers of short or clothing wool. The inquiry might also have materially brought forward the relative rate of rents, the price of land in peace, in war, and again in peace; and if it was ascertained that the landlord had raised his rents by allowing the tenants to plough up the Downs,—which could only be maintained in cultivation by war prices,—he, too, is only feeling the effects of excitement and speculation, and must reduce his rent to the rate of the price which productions ought to bear in peace.

“ There can be no doubt,—the fact is admitted by all, and let me add, lamented by all,—that the price of short wool is very low; but if by giving their sheep different food, they have increased the weight of the carcase, and also the weight of the fleece, it may appear that the farmer now gets more per sheep per acre, taking the carcase and the wool together, than he used to do; but from their very expensive efforts to keep land under the plough, which never ought to have had a plough upon it, the land has been so changed from sheep pastures to arable, that the price of corn materially bears upon this question. The table prepared by order of the committee, and printed in their report, shows the average price of wheat, barley, and oats, and the following are the highest and lowest annual average prices:—

		s.	d.
1788.....	Wheat per quarter	47	8
1812.....	Do. do.	145	8
1789.....	Barley per quarter.....	21	10
1800.....	Do. do.	71	7
1789.....	Oats per quarter	18	9
1812.....	Do. do.	57	6

“ Does not this account for the altered state of cultivation, and give some idea of the rate of rents? It is unnecessary to dwell upon the second division, respecting the stocks of wool on hand, and I proceed to the third division, the depression in the price of wool, and its causes.

“ If the present price of short clothing wool be compared with what it was twenty years ago, the depression is established; but looking to the relative price of South Down

wool, with every other raw material used in manufactures, the depression is not greater than might have been expected, and the causes are evident, from the altered taste of this and other countries with respect to softness of texture of woollen cloths, from reduced demand for the army and navy, and from the general use of cotton manufactures.

“ The Committee of the House of Lords have also, on this head, not gone back far enough in their inquiry as to the causes of the extremely high prices of wool during the war, and its fall in price when those causes ceased ; and in order more clearly to understand the subject, it may be desirable to give a brief history of those trades which chiefly consumed the South Down and other English clothing wools.

“ Anterior to the French revolution, the markets of Russia, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, and the Levant, were almost entirely supplied with coarse woollens from this country, the price of the cloth seldom exceeding five shillings per yard. Many ships were annually dispatched from Hull for the Mediterranean, laden altogether with Yorkshire woollens.

“ In the period of time between the breaking out of the French revolution, 1789, and the declaration of war, 1793, the manufactures of France were suspended, and their armies were clothed with English cloths ; shipments were made as fast as they could manufacture the goods ; and upon reference to the tables of the price of wool, it appears that South Down wool was in 1791 11½d. per lb., and in 1792 it rose to 16d. per lb.

“ A stop was put to that trade by the war, and the price of wool fell in 1793 to 11½d. per lb., the exportation of woollen manufactures being in 1792, £5,510,668, and in 1793, £3,806,536 : then, however, commenced the demand for clothing for our own army and our allies ; our trade with other markets on the continent remained open, and the price of wool gradually advanced. Upon the invasion of Italy in 1796, it again gave way. The militia and volunteers were embodied in 1798–99, and the price of wool rose, in consequence of increased demand for army cloths, to 1s. 9d. per pound.

“ The peace of Amiens took place in 1802. War was shortly renewed by England, Austria, Russia, and Prussia

against France. In addition to the British troops, the Russians were clothed from England, and wool rose to 2s. 3d. per pound.

"Spain was invaded by the French in 1808. Joseph Bonaparte was placed on the throne, and under the expectation that no wool would come from Spain, (the importation from Germany being then very trifling,) large speculations were on foot. Spanish wool rose nominally to 20s. per lb., and South Down wool to 3s. per lb.; that price did not, however, continue long; it fell in 1810 to 2s. 4d. per lb., and in 1811 to 1s. 5d. per lb.

"The destruction of the French army in Russia, and the rapid and splendid victories of the Duke of Wellington in Portugal and Spain, in 1812, again opened the continental markets: the advance of wool was to 2s. 2d. per lb.

"The treaty of Vienna was signed in 1815, and when prohibitory duties did not prevent it, our trade improved with the continent, whilst that with the United States also increased; this demand continued to 1818, when the price of wool had reached 2s. 6d. per lb.

"The tax of 6d. per lb. was imposed on foreign wool in 1819; the exportation of cloth fell off materially. The price of wool fell to 1s. 7d. per lb., and it continued to fall gradually till 1822, when it was 1s. 3d. per lb. The price of wool improved again in 1823, from the shipments of woollens to South America, in consequence of the loans which were negotiated here; the speculators on the Stock Exchange being the paymasters. When that unnatural demand ceased, the price fell, and continued to fall till 1824, when our exportation of woollens had so much decreased, and the price of wool had fallen so much, that it was found necessary to reduce the tax to one penny per lb.

"Having gone through this brief history of the fluctuations which have taken place in the price of wool since the commencement of the French revolution, the result, I think, will satisfy every unprejudiced mind, that the production of coarse wool in Great Britain far exceeds its internal consumption in times of peace; and even in war, when the demand is so much increased for the army and navy, the consumption at home will not be sufficient, without foreign trade, to keep

up the price ; it will therefore be apparent, that whatever tends to decrease foreign demand must injure the English wool grower, and whatever tends to increase that demand, will be advantageous to him. The tax on the importation of foreign wool operated in two ways ; it not only checked the trade in woollens with every foreign country, but it was a bounty to the foreign manufacturer, the rival of the British. It was stated in the House of Representatives of the United States of America, that they were willing to pay the English for their labour, but would not pay their taxes. From the period at which the duties on the importation of British manufactures were increased, they began to manufacture for themselves : the first importation of Spanish wool into Massachusetts Bay was in 1820, the year subsequent to the imposition of the wool tax, and their woollen manufactures have gradually increased, and become an extensive trade.

“ In Spain, too, which used to be the great market for the coarse woollens of England, particularly for baizes and flannels, they prohibited the importation of British woollens in the same year that the wool tax was imposed, under the pretext that by the heavy duty on wool imported from thence, we were injuring their trade. The immediate effect of the tax was, therefore, to check foreign demand for British wool in its manufactured state. Few woollens were exported to Spain containing any of their own wool. The importation from thence was a raw material suitable to the taste, the comfort, and luxury of this and other opulent countries ; the exportation was an article manufactured here, containing a raw material produced here, and which did not and does not suit the taste and demand of this and opulent countries.

“ A trade must be good which imports a raw material, and returns that raw material in its manufactured state, the foreigners paying for the labour of making it ; but a trade is still more advantageous that imports a raw material, which, manufactured, is suitable to our taste, and exports an article made from a raw material which is not consumed in the country where it is produced, thereby paying the farmers who produce it, and the manufacturers and merchant who make and export it.

“ There is another effect produced by the tax, which was

alike injurious to the English wool grower and to the manufacturer; it glutted the foreigner with his coarse wool, and made it unsaleable, except at a most reduced price, thereby raising up rival manufactures, and encouraging those which were established.

“ Mr. Ellman, in his evidence, intended to convey the impression that the price of English wool was depressed solely from the importation of foreign wool. In order to explain the real cause, and to show the erroneous opinion of Mr. Ellman, I state the import of wool and the export of cloth in the years ending the 5th January, 1816 to 1821, and consequently the year which is officially called 1816, was in reality 1815, and that of 1817, was 1816, and so on.

Year.	Importation of Wool.	Exportation of Cloth.
1816	7,517,886 lbs.	638,368 pieces.
1817	14,061,722 „	467,221 „
1818	24,749,570 „	478,378 „
1819	16,100,973 „	446,872 „
1820	9,789,020 „	340,044 „
1821	16,632,058 „	288,228 „

The tax of sixpence per pound on the importation of foreign wool, was laid 10th October, 1819.

“ Is it possible to look at that statement, and not see that the price of British wool must be depressed, quite as much by the reduced exportation of cloth as by the increased importation of wool? If the increased importation had the effect which Mr. Ellman stated,—reduced the price of the raw material,—it would have increased the foreign demand for cloth, provided no other circumstances operated upon it; but the real fact was, that the tax glutted the continental markets with low foreign wools, enabled the foreign manufacturer, at reduced prices, to supply foreign markets with cloth, and thereby checked the demand for British goods.

“ The low price of South Down wool is accounted for, and that most naturally and clearly; it had been raised to a most unnatural and unprecedented price.

“ As applied to agriculture, to commerce, and even to the pursuits of taste and literature, there are periods in which the feelings and the passions get the better of the judgment; such was the case with commerce in the year 1825, when every investment was speculation, when the steady merchant and the plodding tradesman were converted into gamblers;

such was the mania for old black-letter books, which became more valuable because the leaves had not been cut open ; and such has been the state of the agricultural interest. There was a great deal of quackery in all these things ; interested men puffed off their merchandise, their visionary schemes, their old books, and their breeds of sheep ; each acted on the same principle, had the same objects, and obtained the same temporary success. Mr. Ellman's wool was estimated the best South Down. Mr. Boys says that his father said he paid Mr. Ellman upwards of £3000 for the use of rams, and the purchase of ewes to improve the wool as much as possible. This artificial price of wool happening at the time of the restoration of general peace, the British wool growers had to meet the foreign wool growers in foreign markets ; the British manufacturer must either purchase wool lower, go to the foreigner for his raw material, or stop his works : it must fall the more in consequence of its exorbitant height, and the obstinacy of the holders. This was one cause ; another has been the deterioration of South Down wool ; another has been the return from war to peace, and the alteration in the currency from paper to gold, distressing in its effects, but necessary to the country : there is no other raw material which has not fallen in price in a similar ratio, viz :—

	1819		1822		1825		1826		1827		1828	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Coffee	140	9...	328	4...	155	2...	118	10...	110	5...	107	8
Cotton	1	4...	0 9 $\frac{3}{4}$...		1 0 $\frac{3}{4}$..		0 8...		0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$..		0 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Silk	59	11...	48	10...	42	0...	36	6...	33	5...	40	0
Foreign wool	5	9..	4	11 ..	4	6...	3 9 $\frac{1}{2}$..		3	6...	3	6
South Down } Wool	1	7...	1	3...	1	4...	0 10...		0	9...	0	9

It appears that none have fallen less than 22 per cent., and cotton has fallen more than wool.

“ Lord Stanhope says ‘ it would indeed be very agreeable if they found that cloths had, since 1819, fallen 50, or even 35 or 22 per cent. ; but they all know that such is the case with respect to wool only, and not to other articles of produce or manufacture.’

“ How Earl Stanhope could have made this bold assertion, having before him the tables of prices of various articles, prepared by that committee of which his lordship was a member, it is for him to explain ; the foregoing table is ex-

tracted from his own tables, and if his lordship had investigated the evidence with respect to the price of cloth, he would have found that the very fact, the fall in the price of cloth, has taken place in the same proportion. Mr. Varley said, in answer to a question—'Is the yard of cloth of the quality that now sells at 5s. per yard for the export trade, cheaper than it was three years ago?' Answer—'Yes, it is cheaper by one-third almost: I think I am right; it will be one-third.'

"If a similar question had been put to Mr. Gott, or any other manufacturer or merchant who was examined, a similar answer would have been given, and this fall in the price of cloth is in almost the same ratio as the fall in the price of wool, notwithstanding that labour constitutes one-half the price of cloth, and that the price of labour is maintained by the monopoly of corn, which is given to the landed interest: the profit, therefore, to the master manufacturer, is considerably less than it was in 1819.

"Upon the fourth division, viz., 'The past and present state of agriculture, on light and upland soils, as depending upon the folding system and the use of particular breeds of sheep,' no observation is required beyond the evidence given before the committee.

"The fifth division is the change which is alleged to have taken place in the weight of the carcase of the sheep, in the quality of the fleece, and in its usefulness for the purpose of manufacture."

After going through the evidence respecting the increased weight of the fleece, and for and against the deterioration, as have been already quoted, Mr. Bischoff gave a detailed account of the changes which have been stated to have taken place in the British fleece, taken from the different publications, of which this work is compiled, and concludes that subject by saying—"The change which has taken place in the quality of English wool is not without its advantages; it will be evident that what the farmer loses in quality, he gains in quantity: the weight of his wool is increased as well as the weight of the carcase, but with the weight of the wool, the length of the staple is increased; and what was formerly applicable to clothing purposes, or the manufacture of woollen goods, has become by its length, and the improvements in

machinery, applicable to the manufacture of worsted goods, and, the staple being smaller and finer than the staple of the long wool of Kent and Lincolnshire, a better article is manufactured; so that in proportion to the increased application of that wool, and to the increased demand, the price will probably increase, and the profit in labour to the country will be much greater. Whilst upon this head, it does not appear necessary to take much notice of Earl Stanhope's letter. It is true that his lordship's insinuations are intended to convey his want of credit in those who have given such evidence as did not accord with his lordship's preconceived opinions, and it appears it might be most difficult to change them.

“In acknowledging the honor which the Duke of Richmond and Earl Stanhope have done me in noticing my omission of any mention of deterioration in 1819, I trust those noblemen will admit that I have now amply made up for that neglect, having endeavoured, chiefly with a view to their gratification, to trace the history of wool from the time of Julius Cæsar, and its deterioration from the reign of Queen Elizabeth; and as Lord Stanhope justly observes, ‘facts are stubborn things,’ it is probable the facts mentioned by the woolsorters, and confirmed by the Earl of Sheffield, Mr. Culley, and others, will be so stubborn as to convince every one in the kingdom that British wool is deteriorated.”

Passing over the sixth, seventh, and eighth divisions, upon which no observations are called for, beyond what have been already stated, Mr. Bischoff proceeds to the ninth division,—the effect of duties in this, and in foreign countries, on wool and the woollen manufactures. He says—

“This most important point has not, in my opinion, been either sufficiently investigated by the Committee of the House of Lords, nor has the inquiry been directed in such a way as to elicit the bearing and effects of duties on wool and woollen manufactures. I state this because I think that duties may be, and have been advantageous to some countries, whilst they are disadvantageous to others, and duties which have been advantageous to a country at one period, become, by a change of circumstances, disadvantageous at another.

“The effect of a duty on the importation of wool would depend upon the situation of the country so importing it. If a country produce sufficient wool, and not more than suffi-

cient, to give clothing to its own population, and have no export trade, a tax on the importation of the raw material might prevent it from coming into competition with the native material, and keep up the price, to the advantage of the grower; that might be the effect; I avoid giving an opinion upon the equity or policy of such a measure. If, however, a country produces more wool than is sufficient to clothe its own population, and depends upon the exportation,—either in its raw, or in its manufactured state,—for consumption, the effect of a tax on the importation of wool might lessen the demand, prevent the consumption of native wool, and reduce its price; and if foreign be necessary to mix with native wool, for the purpose of making saleable cloth, a tax on foreign must reduce the price of native wool. This, I conceive, is the present state of this country: the British wool grower is dependant upon foreign orders for the consumption of that quantity of wool which he does not consume at home, and which is about one quarter of his production, and consequently any check to the exportation of woollens and wool must be severely felt by the wool growers; the manufacturer feels it first by his reduced orders; but as his purchases of wool decrease with his orders, the farmer feels it most by the accumulation of his produce.

“ In proceeding to the other point, the effect of the wool tax on the woollen manufacturer, I refer to the following statement:—

“ Quantity of woollen and worsted goods exported in the four years preceding the tax of 6d. per lb. on foreign wool, in four years during the continuance of that tax, and in four years after its repeal:—

	Pieces Exported. 1816 to 1819.	Tax. 1820 to 1823.	Repeal. 1825 to 1828.
Cloth	2,030,839 pieces.	1,423,173 pieces.	1,490,570 pieces.
Coatings ...	350,923 „	257,397 „	190,343 „
Cassimeres.	371,834 „	337,859 „	442,537 „
	<hr/> 2,753,596	<hr/> 2,018,429	<hr/> 2,123,450
	Decrease 735,167		Increase 105,021
Stuffs	2,800,541 pieces.	3,645,932 pieces.	4,764,546 pieces.
	Increase 845,391		Total increase 1,964,005

“ The brief result of the foregoing table is, that in the four years when there was a heavy tax on the importation of foreign wool, the exportation of woollen goods decreased 735,167 pieces; the worsted trade, untaxed, increased 845,391 pieces; and in the four years following the reduction of the tax, the woollen trade began to recover 105,021 pieces, while the worsted trade continued to increase 1,118,641 pieces. The declared value of exportation of woollen manufactures, given in the table made for the Committee of the House of Lords, does not give the result of the trade in quantity. There are two modes of giving the value of trade at the Custom House :—*Official value* is the measure of quantity, *declared value* is the measure of amount exported; the rate of official value, in making the calculation, never varies : it is a nominal value given to each article of merchandise and produce,—it is the same that it was in 1696 : the declared value fluctuates according to the real value of the article. Nothing can more clearly elucidate this than the table of official and declared value of woollens exported from 1819 to 1828, as presented by Mr. Irving, the Inspector-General of Imports and Exports, and from which the following is extracted :—

Price of Wool.		Official value of Exports.		Declared value of Exports.	
1819.....	1s. 7d. per lb.	£5,097,018	.....	£6,734,990	
1824.....	1s. 2d. „	4,631,765	.....	4,861,186	
1828.....	0s. 9d. „	5,024,546	.....	4,565,370	.

The official value varying with the quantity exported, the declared value showing the actual cost of the manufacture, and varying with the price of the raw material.

“ By the table of the House of Lords, giving the declared value alone, it would appear that the exportation of woollens had decreased since the reduction of the wool tax, whereas it is proved by the above statement that it has increased in quantity, as stated in the merchants' petition to Parliament. Can any reason be given for this, except the tax on wool? As, during the continuance of the tax, the worsted trade, the cotton, the silk, and every other branch increased, and *the woollen trade alone decreased*, must it not be evident that there was a pressure upon the woollen trade, which did not extend to any other?—and no pressure, except the wool tax, fell peculiarly

upon the woollen trade ; the effect, therefore, of the duty was injurious to the manufacturer by reducing his exports, to the wool grower by reducing the demand for his wool. The effect of the tax which was imposed in England had a decidedly opposite effect on foreign manufactures ; this has been already stated : the reduced price of wool in Germany, and the impulse to their manufactures, to which that gave rise, acted in the inverse ratio, depressing the British and advancing the foreign manufacturer ; and such must ever be the consequence of taxation in every country where an article is dependant upon foreign demand for its consumption. The agriculturists had to thank themselves for the reduced price of their wool from the tax, and its renewal would depress it still more.

“ On the tenth division,—the proportion between the home and foreign markets for woollen manufacture,—very little was elicited by this investigation.

“ The whole value of the woollen manufacture was estimated by the late Earl of Sheffield, in 1818, at £28,000,000 ; the average annual value of exportation at that time was £7,000,000, and according to that calculation the foreign trade was then about one quarter of the whole, the home trade taking off three quarters. I am inclined to think that the difference is now much greater ; the quantity of wool grown in Great Britain, is, according to evidence, increased at least one-third ; the importation of foreign wool has increased, and from the increased extent of population and the mills in the manufacturing districts, I think it would not be exceeding the bounds of probability in estimating the extent of the woollen manufacture, at present, at upwards of £32,000,000 ; the annual exportation of woollen manufactures was, upon the average, till the last two years, about £6,000,000, and consequently the foreign trade in woollens is now about one-fifth of the whole. The question will naturally arise, why has not the foreign trade kept pace with the home trade ? The reason will appear in this investigation, and the French proverb might with great propriety be applied to it, ‘ *Laissez nous faire.*’ If that maxim had been followed, and the raw material allowed to come in untaxed, the foreign trade in woollens in Great Britain would probably have continued its high rank.”

It does not appear necessary to make any further observa-

tion on the eleventh, and the remaining divisions of this question by the House of Lords, the evidence of which has been already given, and to which reference can be made.

“ ON THE WOOL TRADE, WITH CONSIDERATIONS ON THE EFFECTS OF A DUTY ON IMPORTATION. BY EDWARD S. SWAINE. 1829.

“ In a country placed in the condition in which the British empire is at this moment with respect to her resources, it becomes a matter of the most vital importance, that every branch of her domestic industry, and the application of capital, be directed with that discriminating policy which insures in the result the attainment of the highest possible extension of those resources, combined with a beneficial employment of the population.

“ In order to produce this result in its fullest extent, a wise and unshackled legislature would content itself with covering every branch of the national resources and industry with a protecting wing, and leave the direction of them to the sagacity of those who are personally interested, secure in the unerring truth of the maxim, that what is the interest of the individual member of a community, will, in the aggregate, prove also the interest of the whole.

“ But, unfortunately, there are various causes which prevent this salutary policy from obtaining effect in this, as well as in all long established countries. The whole code of municipal laws, the accumulation of so many years, which is involved with an endless tissue of created rights and conflicting interests, would clash with a doctrine in government, the exercise of which depends upon the simplicity and equality of the people's rights ; and, on the other hand, when power is combined with private interest, it occurs but too generally, that it will lose sight of the public good in the anxiety for self-protection.

“ This is clearly exemplified in the history of the wool trade, which has been the subject of several enactments, framed with a view either to create a monopoly of manufacture within this country, or for the protection of the British agriculturist against foreign supply, and consequent competition. In all these cases, it has since been found expedient to repeal those

laws, and still, in the face of that experience, there are many persons interested in the growth of British wool who now demand the re-enactment of the late duty on the importation of foreign wool, in the hope that thereby they will be enabled to raise the price of their domestic produce.

“ In consequence of the measures taken in Parliament during the session of 1828, with a view to that effect, a committee was appointed by the House of Lords, with instructions to inquire into the various branches of the domestic and foreign wool trade; and the labours of that committee have produced a report, which cannot fail to effect a very salutary alteration in the views which the agriculturists of this country had entertained respecting the influence of the importation of wool on the value of that article which is the produce of their farms.

“ It is well known that the consumption of wool forms one of the most extensive branches of British commercial industry, being manufactured into cloth, not only for the supply of the home and colonial markets, but entering also into competition with all the continental manufacturers in the foreign trade in woollen goods. The wool of which this cloth is made is partly produced at home and partly imported from abroad. That which is grown in this country of course forms one *item* in the resources on which the farmer depends for the payment of his rent, and his landlord very naturally entertains an extreme jealousy of the importation of foreign wool, which, to appearance at least, threatens to supersede his claim to a preference in the markets of his own country, and, by an excess of supply, to press down the price of wool below its natural level. Founded upon this apprehension, the agitation of the question of a duty on importation took place in both Houses of Parliament, and led to the appointment of the Lords' Committee. How far that claim of protection is founded upon a correct appreciation of the effects of a duty on importation, and is consistent with sound policy, will form the subject of this inquiry.

“ The views of the question taken by the agriculturists are specious enough. During the period of peace which preceded the wars of the French revolution, English wool bore a price, with reference to the price of the present day, in the proportion of 14d. to 9d. per lb. for South Down wool, and the same

ratio for other qualities of clothing wool. During the intervening course of years, as the French plot ripened, and this country became involved in the struggle, the price of wool gradually, and simultaneously with that of all other species of property, rose, until it attained the maximum price of three shillings per pound in 1809, which was a year of unprecedented speculation in wool, and an average price of 2s. $1\frac{1}{2}$ s. 8d. per lb. for the eighteen first years of this century; from 1818 forward, it gradually receded to its present price of 9d. per lb. On the other hand, up to the period when the French war terminated, and whilst the prices of English wool ruled highest, the annual imports of foreign wool averaged from 2,284,482 lbs. to 11,487,050 lbs. weight, and gradually increased from the year 1812, until it reached 24,749,570 lbs. in 1818, which was the year preceding that in which the duty was raised to 6d. per lb. This duty continued to operate until 1824, and the quantity of wool imported was considerably less than the average of an equal number of years prior to the high duty, which decrease was undoubtedly in consequence of that duty; although, unfortunately for the agriculturists' arguments, a simultaneous depression took place in the price of English wool, which it has never since recovered, and which forms a striking evidence against the validity of their objection to free importation. In 1824 the duty was again reduced to one penny per lb., and importation increased prodigiously; in 1825, 43,795,281 lbs. were imported. The financial embarrassments at the end of that year gave a very considerable check to importation, and created a permanent alteration in the consumption and value of English wool, which languished so long as the agriculturist insisted on the same price he got in 1825, viz., 18d. per lb., and was only beginning to find new channels of consumption in consequence of its cheapness, now the indispensable requisite for a demand, about the period when the appointment of the Lords' Committee took place.

“ From these data it was argued by the agricultural interest, that in respect to the important difference in the price of the present day, as compared with that which preceded the French revolution, it could not be accounted for from the ordinary causes which operate on prices generally, such as

the increased value of money, &c., because any such general rule must obtain equally with every species of farming produce; whereas, taking the average prices of all those articles for the two periods, it will be found, that notwithstanding the excessive depression which took place in the value of produce in 1825 and 1826, yet all else except wool are dearer at the present day than they were at the former period; consequently the effect must be referred to some other cause, and it was a very natural proceeding on the part of the agriculturists to inquire into the operation of foreign wool in the British market.

“ The nature and extent of the claims made by the agricultural interest being thus briefly explained, it becomes desirable, previous to entering on the investigation into their justice and policy, to understand the present position of the foreign wool trade. Until the year 1814, almost all the wool imported into this country was grown in Spain and Portugal, which was esteemed by far the finest in the world; the proportion of that to all other wool was at least nine-tenths of the whole annual importations, and it follows of course that Spanish wool entered into the fabric of all the fine and middling cloth manufactured in this country at that period. From various causes, principally arising out of the grand struggle of which Spain and Portugal had been the arena, these flocks were dispersed or neglected, and this wool gradually degenerated in its most valuable properties. At the date above mentioned, viz., 1814, when Europe once more enjoyed the advantages of a general peace, a new source of supply opened upon the British manufacturers from Saxony, where the agriculturists had been assiduously cultivating the Spanish breed of sheep, and with so much success that the growth of Saxony became more than double the value of the wool of the original stock in Spain. At the same time the fecundity of that valuable animal not only pushed the indigenous coarse-woolled sheep entirely out of that portion of Germany, but they also multiplied so rapidly beyond the former stocks on the estates, as to become an extensive branch of commerce to the landholders, who sold their rams and ewes for enormous prices to the landholders of the neighbouring states, many of whom in

their turn have outstrippèd the Saxons, as well in the quality as the quantity of fine wool they produce.

“ The effect on a poor country like Germany, after the discovery of this mine of wealth, was, that every other consideration was sacrificed for the increase of their flocks ; on each estate extensive barns were built, to house and foster the sheep in during the winter months ; they were fed upon the finest hay, mixed with corn in the ear, and some speculative flock-holders went even so far as to make clothing to cover the sheep with.

“ By these means their wool was raised to the highest degree of fineness yet known ; and engrossing from its valuable properties all that class of consumption in which an expensive method of production is justified by the price which the habits of luxury will procure in the market, German wool has reduced that of Spain to the supply of a demand where quantity and lowness of price is the consideration ; consequently this latter article must be consumed either by the British or foreign manufacturers, in the supply of inferior goods only, for which it is better suited than English wool.

“ The relative position of those two qualities of wool, with respect to their importation into England, will be best understood by a reference to the quantities imported during the various periods of uninterrupted intercourse with both countries.

“ The importations of the years 1800, 1814, and 1827, are as follow,—of course in this Prussia and Germany are taken together, being both the produce of recent improvements in German agriculture :—

	Germany and Prussia.		Spain and Portugal.	
1800,	421,350 lbs.	.....	7,794,758 lbs.
1814,	3,595,146 lbs.	.....	9,234,991 lbs.
1827,	22,007,198 lbs.	.....	4,349,643 lbs.

“ The prodigious alteration that is here made apparent in the source of supply of wool to this country, is the best test of their relative importance. It is impossible to calculate what proportion of the German wool is of that inferior description which enters into the fabric of low middling cloths, such as are capable of affecting the consumption of English

wool by their comparative cheapness and superior quality; but as every fleece, when sorted, must yield some proportion of low wool, and as much of the wool of Mecklenburg, Prussia Proper, and Hungary, is of a comparatively low character,—although improved from the indigenous wool of the country,—and as the whole of that comes to England under the title of German wool, there can be no doubt that a considerable proportion of the German importation is of the (so denominated) low sort. From other parts of the world, not being British possessions, this country also receives a small annual supply of wool, which, with little exception, is of that inferior quality which ranks it as an article competing with wool the produce of Great Britain. Besides these foreign importations, some of the colonial possessions of Great Britain begin to claim consideration for their supply of wool; but as it is agreed on all hands that they shall be treated in this question as a part of the empire, and consequently interested only as furnishing a domestic supply, they will not require further notice in this place.

“In the foregoing statement enough has been given to show the general character of that proportion of the raw material used by the British woollen manufacturer, which the agricultural interest proposes to charge with a tax on importation, with the avowed object of diminishing thereby the effects of competition on the price of their own growth of wool.

“British wool, that is indigenous, is of a very different character from all the wool which is produced elsewhere; and it was deemed by the earlier legislators of this country so valuable as a staple article of manufacture, that the severest penalties were enacted to prevent its being exported in the raw state. The principal feature which distinguishes this wool is the extraordinary length and firmness of staple that a portion of it attains, which suits it for the purpose of combing, and, being peculiar to this country alone, secures to British industry a monopoly of that important branch of manufacture. This property, however, was confined to only a small quantity of wool comparatively, until recent improvements in the construction of the combs on the one hand, and a successful attention to increasing the length of the staple of Down wool on the other, have rendered a far larger proportion of

English wool available for combing purposes than was so formerly.

“ The first objection to the concession claimed by the agriculturists, of laying a duty on the importation of wool, is the effect it would produce on the export trade of this country, that is, on the means of the British manufacturers to enter into competition with those of other states, in the foreign markets which import woollen goods. It has been triumphantly said, What signifies the paltry export of woollens from this country? If, say the agriculturists, you deduct the value of those exported, which are made of English wool, from the total value of the annual exports, it will be found that but a small sum remains for the account of foreign wool; and therefore the whole of what is not exported, being consumed in the home markets, where there is no competition to fear, is a fit subject for taxation. The fallacy of this argument, and of the assumption upon which it is founded, will be obvious after the slightest examination.

“ To form a positive calculation of the relative proportions of British and foreign wool, which at this day are introduced into any particular fabric, is wholly impracticable; the manufacturer uses either as he finds the price and quality to suit his purpose, and by a judicious mixture of them, he frequently combines the various advantages each possesses, either in price or quality, in such a degree as to correct the opposite property in the other; but these proportions, and also the quantity of wool put into each yard of goods, is not subject to any arbitrary rule, so that the value of two yards of any woollen goods may vary from these two causes, as well as from superior workmanship, and from the variety in the cost price of the raw material: therefore any data assumed to show the proportion, can be only a vague and inconclusive guess at a fact.

“ But it is not necessary to enter into this doubtful calculation, in order to see the effect on the export trade of the country, which would result from giving an artificial price to the raw material, whether it be British or foreign. The exact weight of wool used in the export of woollen goods from this country during the year ending 5th January, 1828, cannot

be ascertained ; but by taking three articles only which were exported, viz.—

Cloth,	370,850 pieces, each 50 lb. wool, are	18,542,500 lbs.
Kerseymeres, 122,048	ditto, 27 ditto.	3,295,296 lbs.
Stuffs, 1,258,538	ditto, 10 ditto,	12,585,380 lbs.

The export in that year was 34,423,176 lbs.

of wool, besides the other articles which, if reduced to their quantity of wool, would probably exhibit two-thirds more. Take, however, only one-half, and the quantity is 51,634,764 lbs. At the same period the quantity of wool produced was—

Of British growth,	111,160,560 lbs.
Foreign imported,	29,122,447 lbs.

140,283,007 lbs.

leaving 88,648,243 pounds weight for home consumption, on the supposition that every pound has been actually consumed within the year, which will but barely tally with the assertion of the landed interest, that three years' stock remains in the farmers' hands.

“ It is here freely acknowledged, that with reference to the old markets on the continent of Europe, the British merchant has lost much from the long period of peace which Europe has now enjoyed ; for one of its most valuable effects has enabled every state to call forth all the energy of its people ; and those energies have been fostered by a protection given to their industry, against the competition of more matured powers, in their own markets ; and whether it be a wise policy or not on their part, the woollen manufacturers of England are excluded from many of the great continental markets ; but in exchange, the vast extent of South America has been laid open to us, and presents a field of operation which promises in a short time to rival the brightest periods of British intercourse with the states of Europe. It cannot, therefore, be questioned, that the export trade of woollens from this country has every prospect of a permanence, if it is not destroyed by some untoward interference with its interests. But that permanence depends entirely upon the degree of freedom with which every branch of it is invested ; it does not stand solitary in the world, as might have been said of it

fifty years ago, when those states on the continent which are now manufacturing more than their domestic consumption, were partly dependant on this country for their clothing.

“ The case is now changed ; intelligence, ingenuity, industry, and capital, have all progressed on the continent in an equal ratio with the progress of Great Britain : this latter power had a prodigious start beyond her neighbours when the race began, and has retained her distance to this moment ; she may, she will continue her superiority so long as the native energy of her people is permitted to exercise itself unfettered by legislative interference ; but once crippled in its action by the adoption of the principle that any single point of advantage can be spared, and may be frittered away for the benefit of a powerful interest, claiming exclusive protection, and a very short period of experience will afterwards show how intimate a connection there exists between each individual source of her present commerce and the grand whole.

“ From a statistical examination of the present condition of the continent, with regard to this great branch of industry, it will be found that the manufactories of woollen cloths have increased as much or more than any other source of wealth. From France a large quantity of wool used annually to be imported into this country, between the period which opened at the close of the last war and 1820 ; but from that date, when the British Parliament passed the enactment relative to a return to cash payments, by which a sudden check was given to the then existing order of commerce, an alteration took place in the relative systems of French and British manufacturing, and which, together with the duty that was levied on wool in England in 1819, of sixpence per pound, put a sudden stop to that importation.

“ The French found that not only was all their own growth of wool wanted, but also that for the clothing of the large population of that country, and to meet the demand for exportation of her cloth, she was forced to have recourse to a large importation from Spain, which had always afforded her a partial supply, and from Germany, from whence it was fetched into France almost as soon as the value of German wool began to be known.

“ Thus the relative position of these two rival countries sustained a material change at the period above alluded to (1820). The importation of cloth has always remained reciprocally interdicted by both nations; but now her own wool was retained in France, whilst a duty and other causes diminished the quantity consumed by the British manufacturer, at the same time that it rendered the cloth itself materially dearer. The consequence was, that French cloth rapidly assumed the place formerly enjoyed by British cloth in the nearer markets of Italy, Germany, Russia, &c., and was gradually undermining us in the remoter markets of the United States, South America, &c., when the sixpenny duty was reduced to one penny in 1824, and put a check to the impending ruin of the British export trade. But, notwithstanding that France thus showed her power of rivalry with this country, under such unquestionable advantages, still there were many causes which rendered her the least dangerous of our rivals of that period.

“ The French manufacturers enjoyed an exclusive monopoly in clothing the vast population of their native country, at the same time that the number and extent of their establishments were not sufficient to create a violent struggle of competition amongst themselves; consequently they had sufficient and profitable work at home, and their cloth could only be purchased by foreigners under the disadvantage of all these inducements for the manufacturer to be firm in demanding a high rate of profit; still the cloth of France has a preference in some markets, and continues in demand to a certain extent, although much that is sold as French is really cloth made in the Netherlands.

“ Next to France in extent of manufactures, are the Netherlands. Under the dominion of the Emperor Napoleon, that state enjoyed all the privileges of the French markets, and when the dismemberment took place, the large and extensive manufactories which had grown up under that system were restricted to the comparatively small supply required by the kingdom of Holland, and what foreign markets they could enter into. When the duty was raised in England to sixpence per lb., the Netherlands manufacturer presented himself to take advantage of that circumstance, with all the endowments

that could make a formidable rival. Under a wise and fostering government, with intelligence, industry, and capital, he only wanted markets to call all those powers into most active exertion ; and this country, till then in possession of half the world for her markets, chucked its pre-eminence into the arms of two formidable rivals for £300,000 more of duty, and the hopes of securing to the agriculturist an unnatural and exorbitant price for his growth of wool, although this latter object was totally defeated in the result : English wool, which was 2s. per lb. for South Down the year previous to the operation of the tax, fell immediately one-fourth in price, and gradually decreased down to its present extreme depression.

“ Besides these two large rival states, viz., France and the Netherlands, Prussia has made great advances in her manufacturing establishments ; her newly acquired provinces on the Rhine contain some very extensive manufactories, and at Berlin there are several establishments of the same description, which were artificially fostered in their infancy by the Sovereign ; others are also carried on in Lusatia, where a large quantity of cloth is made, of the inferior qualities ; and the province of Silesia, which was wrested by Frederick the Great from the crown of Austria, has been for a very long period famous for her cloth : these have suffered excessively by being deprived of their best market in Russian Poland, and through that channel into the interior of Russia Proper ; but the very circumstance of the loss of one market, as was the case in the Netherlands by their being shut out of France, has stimulated the manufacturers to look with extreme eagerness for new channels to take off their produce.

“ The Austrian dominions contain some very extensive manufactories of woollen goods ; but the vast population of which they have the exclusive supply, combined with the gross ignorance of all true commercial policy, and the rank jealousy of foreigners generally exhibited by the executive powers of that empire, keep her safe out of the bounds of competition with other states, whose policy and institutions savour something more of the enlightenment of the nineteenth century.

“ If, after the effect produced on the British export trade by a high duty on the raw material, it were possible to entertain a doubt of the impolicy of such a measure, and of the

effect it must inevitably produce on the competition of foreign manufactures, it becomes only needful further to look to the importation of foreign cloth that took place during the prevalence of the high duty, and to observe its termination with the alteration of that duty, in order to satisfy the most scrupulous on the subject. In the year 1823 the warehousing act passed, which permitted foreign manufactured woollens to be deposited in British ports in bond for re-shipment. On referring to a table in the appendix to the Lords' Report, of foreign woollen goods imported into Great Britain, it will be found, that with the exception of the carpets imported from Turkey, little or nothing was received into this country from foreign parts until the year 1823, when the official value of woollens imported was £26,008; in 1824, £71,583; in 1825, £61,232; and in 1826 it fell again to £41,865: at this period, the enterprising foreigner who had derived profit so long as he was protected by the duty,—which, it must be remembered, was reduced in 1824,—began to experience a total inability to meet the comparatively low prices at which the British manufacturer now produces his goods. The stocks of foreign woollens in the bonded warehouses remained unsold till 1825, and in order to get rid of them, the consignee merchant here, who had advanced money on them, was compelled in most instances to ship them forward again to America; and here ceased a trade which, had the sixpenny duty remained, must at best have converted this country into a port of transit for the manufactures of her more fortunate rivals. On commenting upon this statement, the first object which occurs to observation is, the smallness of the quantity warehoused even during the most excessive year of importation. But in the first place it must be remembered, that the warehousing act only passed in 1823, and in 1824 the antidote was administered by the repeal of the sixpenny duty; this gave the foreigner no time to prepare himself for a regular systematic supply, or for the merchant in London to organize his plans for substituting the foreign for British manufactures. It must also be remembered, that sending the goods to London was the extreme of the measure, as it was naturally attended with extra expense: the goods were principally destined for the British colonies, the various States of America,

and other ports to which the merchant traded; and a much more considerable quantity must have been shipped direct, than was entered at the London custom-house. The mode of making the returns in value, instead of measurement, renders it a vague criterion for such a calculation as this; it is, however, sufficient for the establishment of the fact, that whilst the sixpenny duty operated, these goods were imported, and found cheaper by the foreign consumers and the London merchants; and that after the repeal of that duty, as the comparative effects were felt in the respective values of manufactures, the competition of these foreign cloths became altogether inoperative, establishing beyond a doubt the prejudicial and active agency of the duty.

“ Independent of the duty at all, the British manufacturer, who must have foreign wool to enable him to supply the foreign markets with such goods as will be accepted in competition with the produce of other looms, is placed at very great disadvantage. In Prussia and Silesia, for instance, the manufacturer buys his wool on the spot, either from the farmer or from the collector, and takes it at once into his works; whereas the British manufacturer, who buys the same flock, must either employ a second capital in the trade as an importer, or he must purchase his wool in London, which is the same thing, after some other merchant has employed his capital in bringing it over. Now supposing the cost price to be 1s. 6d. in Berlin, his additional expenses to buy the goods in London will be as follows, viz. :—

Prussian export duty	1d. per lb.
Transport to Hamburg, on board ...	0½d. „
Freight, insurance to London, the landing charges	0½d. „
Profit on capital employed, including interest on the sum laid out ...	1¼d. „
Commission, merchant's charge, brokerage, &c. &c.	1¼d. „
	<hr/> 4½d. „

Thus, independent of any duty, the foreign wool comes to 4½d. per lb., or 25 per cent. on the cost dearer to the British than to the Prussian consumer, with whom he has to enter into

competition; to compensate for this, he has a superior capital, and a more matured system of fabricating his goods; add, however, sixpence duty to this charge, and the natural, the inevitable consequence will be, that the scales turn, and British capital and intelligence will no longer withstand such fearful odds.

“As a part of that division of the question which refers to the effect of a duty on the export trade of the country, it will be necessary to notice the distinction that exists between positive foreign supply, and the supply of British possessions and colonies. It may and has been said, on the part of the agriculturists, ‘Oh! we grant that a duty affects your power of competition in foreign markets, but you are secured a monopoly in all the British colonies, and they consume the largest portion of your exports.’

“This sort of flourish is very easily made, when there does not exist any effective means to refute so unfounded an assumption.

“One glance at the excess of exports to foreign states over the quantity shipped to British possessions, will show the relative value of these two branches of trade, and for ever silence the declamations that are uttered against the real foreign trade of this country.

A TABLE OF WOOLLEN EXPORTS DURING THE YEARS ENDING THE 5TH OF JANUARY, 1828.

	Cloths.	Coatings.	Kersey- meres.	Baize.	Stuffs.	Flannels.
	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces	Yards.
To Foreign States.	271153	40954	118111	35879	1045535	1671485
To Brit. Possessions.	99697	1736	3937	11681	212003	846527
Excess of For. States	171456	42218	114174	24198	833532	824958
	Blankets.	Carpets	Wool and Cotton Mixed.	Hosiery.	Sundries.	
	Yards.	Yards.	Yards.	Dozens.	£	s. d.
To Foreign States.	1460806	1084586	776544	125544	27789	2 6
To Brit. Possessions.	438073	111308	69998	17899	15332	3 2
Excess of For. States	1022723	973278	706572	107645	12456	19 4

“This table proves unanswerably that the consumption of the British colonies does not in fact merit the great stress

that has been laid upon it, particularly when it is remembered that China is mixed up with the British East India possessions in the custom-house entries, although that is a free country; and it is a melancholy fact, that owing to the baneful influence of the East India charter, the merchants of the United States have monopolised almost the entire supply of woollen goods to China, and the open ports east of the Cape of Good Hope.

“But if it had happened that the major part of British woollens were exported to our colonies and dependencies, it does not follow, as a consequence, that they could afford to pay an exorbitant price for their supply of clothing, whilst other colonies not British, and the vast free territories on the continent of America, were exchanging their produce for an article which was rendered cheaper from rival looms. Whether this be considered with respect to its influence on the colonies, or on the mother country, it will be found alike prejudicial. To the colonies, the only source of wealth is the exchangeable value of their produce; consequently every thing which tends to render the produce of one colony dearer than that of another, must necessarily injure it; and if the British colonist is compelled to clothe himself and his servants, negro slaves and others, at a greater expense than his rival incurs, this must necessarily fall upon the value of his produce, and entail upon him its concomitant evils.

“It has been suggested, that the foreign trade of the country might be protected and placed on a parallel with that of other states, by granting a drawback on the export of woollen manufactures commensurate with the duty paid in the first instance; that it is of no consequence raising the price to the British consumer, as that equalizes itself, by being felt by all alike, and that the object of the agriculturist would be attained by thus levying a tax on domestic consumption.

“At the very name of a drawback or bounty, even in the case of fisheries, or any quite new branch of commerce craving support, the just-thinking legislator must shrink with an instinctive distrust; but when it is supposed and proposed to pay a drawback, in order to botch up one branch of a trade which is depressed by a duty levied on the raw material used in that trade, it is impossible to withhold expressing

the indignation which such a scheme, worthy the policy of the sixteenth century, must necessarily give rise to. It is not alone the excessively erroneous principle of political economy which is here alluded to, as rendering the notion of a drawback so obnoxious, by artificially propping up on one side whilst a powerful engine of destruction is working upon the other, but there exists a variety of causes combined which render the adoption of such a palliative wholly impracticable.

“Wool being the produce of an animal, which is taken from it in a living state, and whilst that animal is subject to active perspiration, invariably contains a quantity of animal fat or oil, which the best judges consider necessary to be left in the wool, until it is immediately wanted for use, in order, as much as possible, to preserve it in the same state of elasticity and softness in which it is on the sheep’s back. All wool, except Spanish, which is seriously injured by washing it abroad, is imported with that addition to its weight, amounting on an average to one-fourth of the whole weight upon which the duty is paid. Besides this diminution of the original weight, the manufacturing process of shearing the cloth, subjects it again to a second waste, which, united with the waste in washing, will reduce the yard of cloth to one-half the weight that was originally expended on it in raw wool.

“This accounts for the great disparity which appears in the quantity of wool consumed for exportation, compared with the actual weight of the goods when exported; and in the case of a drawback, in order to indemnify the manufacturer fully for the operation of a sixpenny duty, not only ought he to have one shilling returned him for every pound weight of manufactured foreign wool exported, but he should also have an indemnity for the additional charges of interest, extended demand for capital, &c. &c., which he incurs in consequence of the effects of the duty on the price of wool, from which increased price he would be a positive sufferer, until he had exhibited his goods at the Custom-house, and received the amount of the drawback.

“It must always be remembered that the object of the agriculturists in seeking to impose a high duty on foreign wool, is, that by so doing less of inferior wool (which they

suppose to clash with wool of British growth,) may be imported; and, consequently, that the British flock-master may enforce a higher price, but at the same time it is proposed to counteract this very measure, so far as it affects the exports, by a drawback. On referring to the Lords' Report, it will be found in evidence there, that a vast quantity of cloth is manufactured at prices between 2s. 6d. and 5s. per yard; and that it is that particular article from which this country has most to fear from competition. For the sake of being on the safe side in computation, let it be assumed that the average of such cloth weighs only one pound per yard; then at the highest price, viz., 5s. 6d. per yard, the foreign manufacturer could send all his cloths destined for shipment to the British Custom-house, pay his duty of fifteen per cent. on importation, and receive again his drawback of one shilling, or *twenty* per cent. on re-exportation, in spite of every law or effort to the contrary; so perfectly impossible would it be for any Custom-house agents to discriminate the manufacture of cloth prepared for the purposes of deception.

“ The necessary consequence of such a drawback, were it attempted to establish one, would be that not only cloths made of foreign wool for exportation, but also such as are made partly of foreign wool and partly of British wool mixed, as also all of the latter article only, must, when shipped, be subjected to the same drawback. It would not require a very skilful eye to discriminate the respective characters of the raw material in its original state; but after it has been reduced to the condition of the finished manufacture, there could not be any criterion established for detecting the quantity of each quality of wool introduced into the fabric, except by resorting to the feeble and hacknied abuse of a Custom-house oath, by which means the upright tradesman who was restricted to shipping an article made really from foreign wool, would be undersold in all markets by his less scrupulous neighbour, who reduced his prices by mixing the wool in his cloths, as is now universally done in a certain quality of goods, and passing them as being wholly made from foreign wool, thereby giving a premium on fraud and perjury. The alternative is to pay the drawback on all manufactured woollens indiscriminately, when entered for shipping, or, in

other words, to give to the agriculturist a premium of sixpence per lb. for that large proportion of his produce which is worked up for foreign consumption.

“If the drawback, however, were practicable, notwithstanding the objections here before enumerated, it would not save the country the use of that low wool, which the high duty is calculated to exclude. If the various branches of trade belonging to the wool department, from the importation of the raw material to the exportation of the cloth, were all conducted under one head, then it might be possible for that superior and single controller to calculate when he should require a supply of low foreign wool, and to provide for the due importation of the same. But trade at this day is carried on in a very different manner; when a manufacturer receives an order for any particular quality of goods, he looks around amongst his usual channels of supply for the raw produce he wants, and these merchants whose peculiar province it is to provide stocks of the raw material, hold always a variety of qualities on hand, from which the manufacturer may furnish himself to his satisfaction. This is, however, contingent, of course, on the importing merchant having a rational prospect that his speculation will prove favourable, that is, that he has a fair chance in the market with all other competitors. Eager as the mercantile world is to seize every possible chance of employing capital, yet none would be found so weak as to import such inferior qualities of wool under these circumstances, none would take the risk of importing an article to cost here without duty, one shilling per lb. and under, with the conviction that his only chance of selling it would be that he could find a manufacturer who was willing to pay 1s. 6d. for this foreign wool, only with the view of having the sixpence returned by way of bounty six months afterwards, when his goods were shipped. Reviewing the position of this drawback on every side, there appears the most glaring objection to its adoption; the closest inspection does not present one solitary feature to relieve the mind from the conviction that such a proposition could only emanate from a heartless and selfish spirit, resolute on gaining a private good at a public sacrifice. Of the two, it would be infinitely preferable to abandon the duty, and give a direct

bounty in money, at per head of sheep, to each-flock master throughout the empire. The quality of wool is governed materially by the mode adopted in keeping the sheep, and that during the long period of the last war with France, the flock-holder of this country had sacrificed every other consideration to that of increasing the quantity of his wool and the weight of the carcase of his sheep. In order to attain these two objects, it was only necessary to adopt and persevere in one plan, viz., that of feeding the sheep on turnips and other fattening food; this practice became universal, and fully justified the expectation of the farmers; and to this present moment they continue the same mode of feeding their sheep, which fully warrants the conclusion, that they find their account from it, in the price of the carcase, and the improvement imparted to the soil by the folding system.

“ This advantage, however, has its attendant evil, and in proportion as the carcase and fleece increase in weight, so has the quality of the wool decreased in value, and in those properties which are requisite for the manufacture of cloth.

“ By examining the whole of the tables of weights of wool, contained in the Lords’ report, together with the evidence given by the agriculturists themselves, it appears that the average weight of the fleece has increased during the last twenty-five years, at the least estimate, one-third of its former weight: besides this, the quantity of sheep kept on arable farms has also increased materially; to draw a conclusion therefore, only from the increased weight of each fleece, the farmer has already an indemnity of one-third in quantity.

“ The object of the farmer in keeping his sheep, is not wool; this article comes to him as an additional aid towards defraying the charges on his farm; but if wool ceased to be of any more value than the hair of his oxen, that circumstance would not diminish a single sheep from the quantity kept on each farm. It is precisely the same in this respect with sheep, as with other animals kept for human food: this is the primary object of the farmer in this mutton-eating country; and whatever can be produced from the sheep besides, without detracting from the profitable supply of mutton, he makes the most of. If it were only practicable to unite the highest degree of value in both cases, by inflicting an

unjust and injurious obligation on any other interest, or the community at large, such a measure would be a direct violation of the most sacred duty of the legislature; and it must be evident that only sumptuary laws could enforce even a temporary success. Although it is here asserted that sheep are not now kept for their wool, it is by no means implied that if there were no other value in sheep but their wool, they would not then be kept; that proposition would alter the case entirely; and the otherwise uselessness of the sheep would enable the farmer to keep his flock in such a manner, as well with regard to food as to situation and mode of treatment, as to give a very different complexion to the state of competition between British and foreign wool.

“ This is, however, purely hypothetical: the object now sought in rearing sheep is, first, to supply the markets with mutton, and secondly, to draw from the flock of each farm that nourishment into the soil which mainly enables the farmer to pursue the profitable mode of cultivation by rotation crops, instead of the fallowing system, as is the practice still in those countries where the produce of fine wool is the sole object for which sheep are kept.

“ Without the possession of authentic data, it will be impossible to make any calculations of the quantity of sheep slaughtered annually at present, either compared with any former period, or with the number of sheep in the country; but general report makes the ordinary period for fattening sheep now two years earlier than it took place twenty years ago. Assuming the correctness of this statement, it becomes a powerful evidence of the value of the carcase to the farmer, if he is enabled to sell his sheep, either to the grazier or the butcher, at the age of three years on an average, where he formerly kept them five years: he has now the extraordinary advantage of turning his capital over once in three years, instead of five, as was done by the farmers of an earlier period; and this is combined with the improvement he has made in the breed, by which a much heavier, and consequently more valuable sheep is reared upon the same extent of land. From the evidence of the different farmers who were examined before the Lords' Committee, it appears that on an average the number of sheep kept upon a well-stocked farm,

is about one to the acre. To calculate, therefore, from a farm of 600 acres, the result of the former period, compared with this, would be as follows, even allowing the wool to have been worth, previous to the French revolutionary war, fifty per cent. more than on the present day :—

Thus 600 sheep of the old breed						
at 2½lb. per fleece, at 13½d. per	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
lb., will sell the wool for	84	7	6			
And 600 sheep sold every five						
years, at 25s.	150	0	0	234	7	6
Whilst 600 sheep of the improved						
breed, at 3½lb. of wool per fleece,						
sold at 9d. per lb. will produce	78	15	0			
And 600 sheep sold every three						
years, at 25s. will yield per ann.	250	0	0	328	15	0
Leaving a balance in favour of						
the present flock of				94	7	6

In pursuing this double advantage,—of heavy carcase and manure,—the farmer has made his selection with a perfect knowledge of all its consequences ; most certainly the enterprising and the improving spirit of the age in agriculture, has not allowed these two conflicting systems, so vital to the quality of wool, to remain without having their respective productiveness minutely computed, and that the present system is universally persevered in, must be admitted as the best possible evidence of its superior value to the British farmer. If that were not the case, nothing could be more obvious than the road chalked out to be pursued, in order to effect either the change back to the quality of wool produced on the same estate twenty-five years ago, or to the introduction of merino sheep as has been the case in Germany, France, &c.”

Upon the meeting of Parliament in 1829, the Duke of Richmond gave notice of his intention to move certain resolutions in the House of Lords respecting the wool trade, and fixed the 14th of May for the discussion ; but on that day, the Earl of Malmesbury, in the absence of the Duke of Richmond, moved for some returns respecting wool and corn : and the Duke of Richmond afterwards postponed his motion respecting wool, to Tuesday, the 26th May.

In order to ascertain, if possible, the weight of wool exported, whether in its raw or manufactured state, Mr. Bischoff prepared the following table:—

Weight of Wool exported; calculated from the Returns made to the House of Lords, dated 7th March, 1828.

Articles.		Number of Pieces.	Average length.	Number of Yards.	Weight per yard.	Pounds of Wool.
Cloth.....	Pieces.	370,850	27yds.	10,012,950	2 lbs.	20,025,900
Coatings	„	51,690	35 „	1,809,120	2 „	3,618,300
Kerseymeres.....	„	122,048	30 „	3,661,440	$\frac{3}{4}$ „	2,746,080
Baizes	„	47,560	60 „	2,853,600	$\frac{1}{2}$ „	1,426,800
Stuffs.....	„	1,258,538	...	...	9 „	11,326,842
Flannels	Yards.	...	...	2,518,012	$\frac{1}{3}$ „	839,337
Blankets ... ..	„	...	...	1,898,879	2 „	3,797,758
Carpets .....	„	...	...	1,195,894	$1\frac{1}{2}$ „	1,793,841
Mixt .....	„	...	...	846,568	$\frac{1}{4}$ „	211,642
Hosiery	Dozen.	...	...	143,443	2 „	286,886
Sundries	Value.	£43,443	...	at 2s per cwt	...	434,430
Wool .....			...	...	...	278,552
Yarn, Wool and Worsted .....			...	...	...	245,620
Yarn mixed, half Wool .....			...	10,031	...	5,015
Weight of foreign wool imported						47,037,011
Excess of wool exported						28,111,551
Excess of wool exported						18,925,460

London, 20th May, 1829.

IMPORTATION OF WOOL.—MAY 26, 1829.

The Duke of RICHMOND presented petitions from certain wool growers of the counties of Gloucester and Somerset, praying an increase on the duty upon the importation of foreign wool. He expressed his fears and his regret, that in proposing to the house the resolutions of which he had given notice, he should be obliged to trespass at some length upon their lordships' patience. It would be in the recollection of their lordships, that in the course of the last session of Parliament a great number of petitions was presented from various parts of England and Scotland, complaining of the great importation of foreign wool, and the consequent depression of the petitioners who were British wool-growers. Those petitions were referred to a committee, which committee reported that no remedy could be applied; but he, in justice to those petitioners, felt bound to say, that the complaints contained

in those petitions were unhappily but too well founded. He had in the course of that session given notice, that early in the next (the now present) session of Parliament, he would bring the subject before their lordships. That pledge he had been determined to redeem, but from the importance of the topics introduced into His Majesty's speech from the throne, he had felt it his duty to postpone his intention, renewing, however, his promise to bring it forward at a future day, and that promise he was about to fulfil. He would now take leave to say, that no man within or without the walls of that house regretted, or could regret, more than he did, the distress which prevailed in the country. No individual in that house could be more unwilling than he was to advocate the principle, that the interests of the agriculturists should be advanced at the expense of the manufacturers, and therefore it was that he had determined upon proposing only so small an addition to the present duty on the importation of foreign wool, as should divide between both the difference between the former and the present duties, and thus enable Parliament to lighten a part of the distress which pressed upon the agriculturist and manufacturer. Small as was the addition of the existing duty, with the proposing of which he meant to conclude, it would be some relief to the proprietors of flocks, and some relief also to those growers who had large stocks of British wool on hand. When he had proposed the appointment of a committee, the Noble Duke (the Duke of Wellington) at the head of His Majesty's Government said, "I do not mean to object to giving you a committee, but you will do no good by it." He (the Duke of Richmond) was not of that opinion, for he calculated on making out, from the evidence taken before that committee, a good case. The whole of the Noble Duke's argument against increasing the duty rested upon the depreciation of British wool; the fallacy of that argument was proved by the evidence of a Noble Duke opposite, and by that of Mr. Western, and others equally qualified. He (the Duke of Richmond) should contend, that the depreciation in the price of British wool had been produced by the enormous importation of foreign wool, unchecked almost by any duty. The effect of competition might be deduced from one fact: British hogget wool brought even at present a fair price,

because there was no foreign wool of that description at market. (Here the Noble Duke referred to some letters from woolstaplers and others, to show that in consequence of the great quantities of fine foreign wool in the market, no good British wool could be sold.) Such was the truth, the whole truth. Such was the opinion of respectable persons in the trade, and which could not be placed on a par with the statements of London and Leeds manufacturers, nor with those of delegates who altered their evidence before it was printed. He would not say that the whole of those manufacturers had perjured themselves; but he had a right to assume that they had proved themselves to be more zealous partisans than impartial witnesses. There were other arguments which might be put forward to prove, that if a moderate duty were laid upon the importation of foreign wool, our trade would bear it. What effect the duty of sixpence per pound, now repealed, had had upon the export trade of the country, he would now proceed to show. (Here the Noble Duke referred to a variety of documents, to prove that under the high duty on foreign wool the exports of the country had not diminished,)—[a copy of these documents will be inserted at the close of this discussion.] He was sorry to have so long detained their lordships, but those details were necessary to his argument. The question for their lordships to consider was, whether British wool should be protected to as great an extent as other articles of home produce? Here the Noble Duke recapitulated the various articles of British produce, amongst which was iron, which were, according to his view, better protected than wool. By the present rate of duty, British wool was only protected to the extent of 3 per cent.: by adding threepence per pound, which he intended to propose, British wool would not be better protected than other articles of British produce. He would ask, was any further statement necessary to show that the British wool-growers were entitled to the protection he sought for? Was there any reason why those flock-masters should not be protected as well as other classes of producers? Were they not equally burthened? Were they not now paying taxes equal to what they paid at the time when British wool brought a price three times larger than it did at present? They asked not for favours,—they asked not for preference,—

they asked only for equal protection. He had now to apologise for having so long occupied the attention of the house. If he had not convinced their lordships of the justice of the claim of the petitioners, upon which the resolutions he was about to move were founded, he begged of their lordships to attribute his failure to his own incapacity, rather than to any defect in the cause he advocated; and he should conclude by imploring their lordships to bear in mind, that if they rejected his resolutions, they would take away the only remaining hope of a very large and very meritorious class of their fellow-subjects.

The Duke of Richmond then moved the following resolutions :—

“ That it appears from the evidence laid before the Select Committee of this house, appointed to take into consideration the state of the British wool trade, that since the year 1824 there has been a fall in the price of South Down wool of one-half, added to a general depreciation, in a more or less degree, of all wool of British growth.

“ That this depreciation has befallen the occupiers of sheep farms, over and above that which occurred, nearly equal in extent, simultaneously with the alteration in the currency in 1819, and simultaneously with a general nominal reduction in price of all produce, and of all articles of commerce, at that period.

“ That it appears from the same evidence, that very large tracts of light lands cannot be advantageously continued in cultivation, without such a price for the wool grown upon them as may enable the farmer to make the breeding or feeding of sheep a constituent and principal feature of his agricultural economy; that the result of such lands being thrown out of cultivation would not only deprive the population of those districts specially of the means of their own existence, but in discouraging and diminishing the breeding of sheep, would enhance to the labouring classes the price of one primary article of food, and at the same time, to a considerable extent, place this island, more than it is at present, in dependence upon foreign countries for subsistence.

“ That it appears likewise from the same evidence, that the owners and occupiers of sheep farms are protected in a less degree from the overwhelming competition of foreign coun-

tries (not being the dominions of Great Britain,) than the generality of proprietors of indigenous produce, and are thus excluded from the general rule of moderate protection by duty, adopted and practised in modern times by the legislature of Great Britain, in respect to her commercial policy.

“That, whilst it appears by this evidence that the price of South Down wool is reduced at this time to one-half of the rate it bore in the year 1793, it is notorious that the various state burthens, of parochial assessments, and of general taxation, have within the same period more than trebled upon the agricultural interests.

“That under a continuance of the present depression in the price of their produce, it would be distressing and ruinous to the wool growers of England, to be obliged to submit to these increased burthens of the state, aggravated as they have been by the necessity imposed upon the country by the act of 1819, of paying in a metallic currency of full and sterling value the interest of an enormous debt contracted in a currency of greatly depreciated paper.

“That it is, therefore, highly expedient that Parliament take into its serious consideration the distressed condition of the wool growers, with a view to their relief.”

The resolution having been seconded,—

The Earl of HAREWOOD said, it was not his intention to contradict the Noble Duke as to the general distress under which growers of wool at the present moment laboured; but on behalf of that class of the community, as well as of the woollen manufacturers, he felt called upon to state, that any attempt to tax the introduction of foreign wool would have the effect of injuring both the one and the other. The trade, it was true, was distressed; but the question was, could our manufacturers do without the aid of foreign wool? He maintained they could not; the moment they attempted to impose a duty upon foreign wool would have the effect of injuring both the one and the other; they would drive to the continent that supply which we were at present furnishing to foreign markets, and what then would become either of the wool grower or the manufacturer? Whatever might be thought to the contrary, it was a well known fact, that the wool of this country had deteriorated in quality, and with that wool alone,

unmixed with foreign wool, it would be impossible to supply foreign markets. He should, upon these grounds, oppose the resolutions.

The Duke of NORFOLK thought that there was not such a deterioration in the growth of wool in this country as had been stated by some Noble Lords. He had considerable means of judging, from having attended a good deal to his own flock of sheep, that some alteration for the worse had taken place in wool, owing to the amelioration in the food : for it was well known, that when the animals were well fed, the wool, though it increased in weight, would deteriorate in quality. He had kept an account, from which it appeared that in 1810, the clip of a flock (not of fat sheep) averaged 3 lb. 3 oz.; and in 1828, the last clip, it averaged 3 lb. 2 oz. With respect to the distress under which flock-masters laboured, he believed it to be very great, greater, indeed, than that of any other class in the kingdom. Under these circumstances, he felt called upon to support the resolutions of the Noble Duke.

Lord WHARNCLIFFE admitted that the flock-farmer and the wool-grower were labouring under distress, owing to the low price of wool ; but the question was, how was the evil to be remedied ? He very much feared that the measure proposed by the Duke of Richmond, would have the effect of still lowering, instead of raising, the price of the home produce in that article. He must observe, that he had received the evidence of the wool grower with caution, and so he should the evidence of the manufacturer, who told him that his cloth was as good now as it was twelve years ago ; he should judge from the material, and not from the statement in either case. The Noble Duke had urged it as an argument against the importation of foreign wool, that hogget wool, in which article there was little competition with foreign markets, still retained its price. But the Noble Duke should bear in mind, that hogget wool was of two years' growth, and being longer and better in quality, could be used to greater advantage than the other wool of this country. It was a notorious fact, that the wool of this country had deteriorated, and unless Ministers were prepared to pass a bill to prevent the people of England from wearing as good cloth as their neighbours, the French and the

Dutch, it was impossible to prevent the importation of foreign wool, which was so necessary to be worked up with our own. He was not exactly aware of the forms of their Lordships' house, but he hoped the motion would be met with something like what was in the House of Commons called the previous question. Noble Lords must be aware, that even their servants would not now wear cloth which they themselves would not have objected to forty or fifty years ago. It was because we had nearly a free importation of wool, that we were enabled to supply not only our own market, but the markets of Europe and the new world.

Lord MALMESBURY supported the motion, and maintained that the wool growers did not receive equal protection with the other branches of trade. He conceived that a large import duty should be placed on foreign wool.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH assured the Noble Earl (Lord Malmesbury) and the noble mover of the resolution, that His Majesty's Ministers were not at all insensible to the distress which existed amongst the growers of wool, and to the depreciation in the price of that article. If the Noble Lords would, however, look more closely into the subject, they would find that the distress had been produced by other causes than those which they had assigned. It was true that the importation of foreign wool had been considerable, but it was not to that cause alone that the distress of the wool growers was to be attributed. The quality of English wool had been deteriorated, whilst the importation of cotton had enormously increased, and two-thirds of the labouring classes were clothed in cotton. As long, therefore, as the price of cotton was low, it was impossible that the price of wool could be high; and any attempts to raise its price by artificial means, as by a duty on importation, would be ruinous to the wool trade. Every such duty would increase the disposition to use cotton goods, would diminish the price of wool abroad, and lessen the desire and the power of foreign countries to purchase the woollen goods of England. For these reasons he should oppose the motion of the Noble Lord.

Lord DELAWARE opposed the motion.

The Marquis of SALISBURY supported it.

The Duke of RICHMOND, in reply, contended that British wool was not deteriorated, and that the imposition of a duty upon foreign wool would greatly increase the revenue of the country. He thought that the Board of Trade was more disposed to receive the statements of manufacturers than agriculturists.

The motion was then put from the chair, when the House divided, and there appeared—

Contents	35
Non Contents	88
—	
Majority against the Duke of Richmond's resolutions,	53

The following are the documents prepared, read, and referred to by the Duke of Richmond :—

Account of the British woollen manufactures exported during the last eight years, distinguishing the period when the six-penny duty was existing upon foreign wool imported, from the period when that duty was reduced to one penny.

YEARS BEGINNING THE SIXTH OF JANUARY, WHEN THE DUTY ON FOREIGN WOOL WAS SIXPENCE.

	Pieces.	Value.	Yards.	Value.	Woollens at Value.	Total De- clared Value
		£.		£.	£.	£.
1821	1,598,891	5,724,022	6,321,168	608,162	135,740	6,163,824
1822	1,705,948	5,606,493	8,452,924	721,673	160,507	6,488,673
1823	1,695,928	4,857,977	8,135,516	646,516	189,978	5,634,471
1824	1,856,201	5,280,518	7,885,259	628,566	133,397	6,042,411
	6,856,268	21,469,018	30,225,305	2,509,917	560,552	24,629,479

YEARS WHEN THE DUTY WAS REDUCED TO ONE PENNY.

	Pieces.	Value.	Yards.	Value.	Woollens at Value.	Total De- clared Value
		£.		£.	£.	£.
1825	1,741,985	5,334,185	7,798,610	717,953	142,503	6,194,936
1826	1,617,746	4,466,209	4,956,927	404,255	112,375	4,982,909
1827	1,850,687	4,561,869	6,459,358	540,735	175,257	5,277,881
1828	1,819,246	4,393,413	6,825,453	527,336	143,033	5,063,088
	7,029,664	18,756,266	26,023,348	2,190,244	573,168	21,519,678

From the above statement it appears that during the *Yards.*
four years 1821 to 1824, when the duty on foreign
wool was sixpence, the British woollens exported
were 30,225,305

And that during the four years 1825 to 1828, when the
duty on foreign wool was one penny per lb. they
were 26,023,343

Being a decrease in the period at the penny duty, of
nearly 14 per cent..... 4,201,962

And that during the four years 1825 to 1828, the num-
ber of pieces exported were 7,029,664

And in 1821 to 1824... 6,856,262

Being an increase in the period of the penny duty, of
about two-and-a-half per cent..... 173,402

Average export of British woollen manufactures, computed
by the real and declared value, during the period of four
years of the sixpenny duty's existence, as compared with
the average of the four years since that duty was reduced :

Average comprising 1821 to 1824 ...	£6,157,369	15	0
Ditto 1825 to 1828 ...	5,379,919	10	0

Exhibiting an annual decrease on the
latter period, of..... £777,450 5 0*

Aggregate number of pounds of sheep's wool and lambs'
wool exported in each of the same periods of the fore-
going exports :—

1821 ...	34,226 lbs.	1825 ...	112,424 lbs.
1822 ...	38,208 „	1826 ...	142,980 „
1823 ...	28,563 „	1827 ...	278,552 „
1824 ...	53,743 „	1828 ...	1,669,389 „
	<u>154,740 „</u>		<u>2,203,345 „</u>
			154,640 „

Showing an increase during the last period of 2,048,605 lbs.

* The worsted goods *not affected by the tax* are included, and the “declared value” is taken instead of the “official value ;” the price of wool having fallen 50 per cent., the “declared value” had fallen in the same proportion.—*Author.*

Aggregate quantities of woollen and worsted yarn exported
in each of the same periods :—

1821	...	17,678 lbs.	1825	...	76,961 lbs.
1822	...	31,078 „	1826	...	131,002 „
1823	...	18,138 „	1827	...	255,659 „
1824	...	20,060 „	1828	...	436,721 „
<hr/>			<hr/>		
86,954 „			900,343 „		
			86,954 „		
			<hr/>		

Showing an increase of 935 per cent. 813,389 „*

Aggregate number of pieces of cloth of all sorts exported in
each of the same periods :—

1821	...	375,153 $\frac{1}{4}$ Pieces.	1825	...	384,598 $\frac{1}{4}$ Pieces.
1822	...	419,748 $\frac{3}{4}$ „	1826	...	327,968 $\frac{1}{2}$ „
1823	...	355,687 $\frac{1}{4}$ „	1827	...	370,850 „
1824	...	407,154 $\frac{1}{4}$ „	1828	...	334,001 $\frac{1}{4}$ „
<hr/>			<hr/>		
1,557,743 $\frac{1}{4}$ „			1,417,418 „		
1,417,418 „					
<hr/>					

140,325 $\frac{3}{4}$ „ Decrease of about nine per cent.

Aggregate quantity of wool imported in each period of four
years :—

1821	...	16,632,028 lbs.	1825	...	43,795,281 lbs.
1822	...	19,072,364 $\frac{1}{2}$ „	1826	...	15,964,067 „
1823	...	19,378,129 $\frac{1}{2}$ „	1827	...	29,122,447 „
1824	...	22,558,222 „	1828	...	30,235,915 „
<hr/>			<hr/>		
77,640,744 „			119,117,710 „		
			77,640,744 „		
			<hr/>		

Increase..... 41,476,966 „

Making a proportion of foreign wool imported, of eighteen
pounds and a fraction to every one pound of English wool
exported.

* It should have been stated, that the exportation of British wool and yarn was
strictly prohibited when the duty was imposed on foreign wool in 1820, and this
shows the increasing trade in those articles, which were not affected by the tax
on importation.

The exportation of English wool should have included the weight of woollen
and worsted manufactures, as well as wool and yarn.—*Author.*

CHAPTER VIII.

1829 to 1837.

Practical Observations on the Improvement of British Wool, and the National Advantages of the Arable System of Sheep Husbandry, by Joshua Kirby Trimmer—Letter from the British Consul at Nantz respecting Dyeing—Correspondence thereon—Duties paid on Olive Oil and Dyeing Wares—Rates of Wages in the Wool Trade prior to and since the Introduction of Power Looms—Committee of the House of Commons on Banking and Trade—Sheep: their Breeds, Management, and Diseases, by W. Youatt.

By looking to the evidence given before the Committee of the House of Lords respecting the quality of British wool, it is admitted that its deterioration for the purpose of making superfine cloth is clearly established. It would, however, be more correct, with reference not only to the profit of the farmer, but for the good of the country, to denominate the alteration which has taken place in quality, *change* rather than deterioration; for with the increased weight of the carcase and the fleece, the farmer derives more benefit, the country has more food, and the manufacturer has a larger quantity of a raw material, more useful in one respect, requiring greater labour in the process of manufacture, and giving maintenance to a greater number of people: the change which has taken place is therefore in every point of view advantageous, and the intelligent farmer soon found it his interest, by turnip husbandry and altered cultivation, to increase the size of his sheep. A pamphlet was published recommending this system, by Mr. Trimmer, a sheep farmer, having a farm in the neighbourhood of Kew. He first published some letters in the newspapers, drawing the public attention to the subject, and afterwards published—

“ PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF
 “ BRITISH FINE WOOL, AND THE NATIONAL ADVAN-
 “ TAGES OF THE ARABLE SYSTEM OF SHEEP HUS-
 “ BANDRY. By JOSHUA KIRBY TRIMMER. 1828.”

He divides his work into six chapters, and commences the first,—

“ It is impossible that any person can have even glanced over the mass of evidence given before the Committee of the House of Lords, without being forcibly struck with the awful fact that this country, which once boasted of its native wool as the staple commodity,—clothing with it, not only its own population, but supplying also other nations largely with cloth manufactured from it, has now become nearly wholly dependant on a foreign supply of wool, for its clothing manufacture. In this volume of evidence it is stated, on one hand by the manufacturers, that British fine wool has greatly degenerated, whilst on the other, this is denied by the growers of it; but as both agree in one point, that from the introduction of softer German wools, the habits and taste of consumers of cloth at home and abroad are changed, it is obviously expedient for this country diligently to improve its fine wools. In offering the following observations on the subject, as I speak not from theory, but long experience, and shall state nothing which I cannot have fully proved, I trust I may claim patient attention, and I feel assured I shall be able to show that this country is as capable as any other of producing fine wool.

“ The first improvement in the German wools arose from the introduction of merino sheep from Spain; and the spread of it was more rapid, since there was neither prejudice nor interest to counteract it. The sheep of that country had not been advanced to any state of improvement in other respects; the mutton was of minor import, and the breeders thereof had nothing to bias them. As their wool improved in quality, it found a ready market in this country, whilst our growth of fine wool, from opposite causes remained stationary. Saxony in particular took the lead in improvements, and produced wool of the most tender and delicate quality, but suited rather to the refinement of luxury than to the profitable use of consumers of cloth at large. It is, however, material to show by what course of practice the Saxons effected this great

change in the wool; and it is well known, that in addition to making the fineness of wool the main object in breeding, they confined the sheep in winter in houses, feeding them on corn and hay, and thus doubly heating them. The result has been, that whilst the wool has become thus delicate, the sheep have degenerated into a puny weak race, producing only half the weight of wool and mutton which the parent merino stock from which they sprung yielded. Although I have no doubt that, from such a course, wool equally fine and delicate could be produced in this country, yet it cannot be advantageously pursued, since the three valuable properties in sheep—mutton, wool, and the use of the fold for the short-woolled breed—are essentially necessary with us; and clothing wool sufficiently fine for general use can be produced without sacrificing those other properties in the sheep. Nearly twenty years ago, we also imported a number of merino sheep from Spain, derived from flocks of various qualities; but those of the most pure blood were some selected by the Cortes from the best flocks, as a present to the late King George III. From the high state of improvement which, in many respects, sheep breeding had reached in this country, the greatest expectations were formed of our success in improving this breed; but, strange as the assertion may seem, this very cause mainly tended to defeat the object. Leading breeders of sheep had a great stake in the flocks which they already possessed; they had given, and were obtaining, high prices for them, and they were also accustomed to look to particular points in them, as those nearest to perfection. The merino sheep, on their introduction, differed materially from such popular points; and it is not to be wondered at, under such circumstances, that they were deceived. It was said that they were neither suited to the climate or the fold, unkindly in their disposition, that the mutton was worthless, and that the wool would and did degenerate. Practical breeders of eminence, who made any trial of them, being thus warped by prejudice and interest, those trials consequently were not pursued with zeal; and the sheep were not adapted to the taste of the shepherds, who were accustomed to view a different kind of animal. They were, therefore, without a fair chance of success. Unfortunately too, many of them fell into

the hands of other than practical men, and from mismanagement a colour was given to the clamour against them. Wool from inferior and mixed flocks of all kinds was attempted to be passed as the best and most pure; manufacturers could only judge from the quality which they found it to possess, and they therefore considered that the wool did degenerate. Rams also from the like flocks were passed as those of the first blood, and breeders who used them found disappointment in their produce. From my own experience, however, of many years, I can only attest that these prejudices were groundless: I will therefore state the result of that experience.

“ Soon after the King’s flocks were imported, I purchased a considerable number of sheep from them, and selected from those of the Nigrette blood, as being the largest sheep, and carrying the most and softest wool. These I have continued to keep strictly pure, having no other sheep whatever; and I drew rams from the royal flock, so long as that was kept up; since I have depended wholly on my own. By due attention in breeding, the wool, far from degenerating, has annually improved in softness and fineness, and these properties have become much more uniformly even throughout the fleece; so that I now obtain for the whole a price beyond what any foreign wool brings in bulk in an unsorted state, whilst the fleeces of my flock are full double the weight of those of the Saxon sheep. It is right, however, to state, that the staple of my flock, having arrived at a length beyond that of other merino sheep, thus rendering it fit for combing, is a cause of enhancing the value. The form of the sheep is also highly improved, whilst the disposition to fatten equals that of the South Down. The mutton is of the first quality, and I can readily make for fat wethers the highest price which any mutton brings in the London market.

“ This country, so far from being less equal to, possesses, under proper management, considerable advantage for the growth of fine wool. A very prevalent opinion having existed, that our climate is not suited to produce the finest qualities of wool, I will endeavour to clear up the point by showing, both from reasoning and facts, the error of that supposition. In the very commencement of my engaging in this cause, now nearly twenty years ago, I reasoned the matter in

the following manner :—That a hot climate cannot be essentially necessary for the production of fine wools, since animals which yield the most delicate furs in their native state are inhabitants of colder regions. The sable and ermine are not found within the torrid zone, but arctic circle. The wool too, (if such it may be called,) of the Cape of Good Hope sheep, so far from being fine, resembles coarse hair. The Thibet or Cashmere goat produces, it is true, an undercoat of extraordinary fineness ; but this coat, which he casts at particular seasons, is guarded by a permanent covering of coarse hair. The Thibet or Cashmere goat possesses that hair which alike shelters the animal itself and its undercovering of down from the effects of the sun. In confirmation of this reasoning, wool of the finest class is known to be grown by the merino sheep, even in Sweden, and other of the coldest countries in Europe ; and the Saxons so far found the rays of the sun prejudicial to the production of the most delicate quality of wool, that they have in some degree sheltered from the effect of it those sheep which produced such wool. The close fleece of the sheep is destined to secure the animal from the severity of winter's cold ; and when, from change to summer's heat, that coat became burdensome to him, Providence has ordained that the wants of man shall lead him to strip from the animal that load of wool which has then arrived at a state of maturity, and thus the exigencies of both are satisfied.

“ The next head on which I wish to clear up some prevalent opinions, relates to the food of sheep, and on no point has greater error existed ; for it has been supposed that none but particularly fine close pastures can produce fine wools. My own experience is wholly at variance with this supposition ; for whilst my flock is admitted to have produced softer and finer wool than has been grown on any such pastures, the sheep have subsisted on every kind of food, the produce of arable crops, which could support them, without any preference to either sort, further than as it conduced most to the health and condition of the animal, such as rape and rye in early spring, followed by rye grass, clover, trefoil, and tares ; for summer, rape, turnips and mangel worsel, straw and (if it could be afforded) hay of any kind for autumn and winter,

and, when pinched for keep in the spring, even oil cake and linseed.

“ By no change of food could I ever make the hair of an individual coarse-woolled sheep fine, or a fine one coarse : and I am convinced it is upon the high blood and ancestry of the sheep alone, that dependance for fine wool in the progeny can be looked for ; even the last observation is strongly verified in the merino sheep ; for although they are an extremely quiet kind of sheep, and never break pasture except driven out by dogs, and the slightest fence is sufficient to keep them, even though the next field may afford them better food, yet they are very timid, and startle at a noise, but without flying from it, unless the noise proves to be that of a dog. This I can in no way account for, but from the constant fear their predecessors were under from the attack of the wolves in Spain ; but that it should have continued for so many generations is, I think, one among the many proofs of what is inherent in ancestry.

“ The first advantage which I have to state this country possesses, is, that the British sheep in general are, in other respects, wool excepted, more highly improved ; and even as to wool, that they rank above the native unimproved sheep of some neighbouring nations. Another advantage I consider arises from the application in this country of short-woolled sheep to the best purposes of husbandry in arable districts, thus enabling us more profitably to keep extensive flocks in the hands of individuals, and, on the whole, a far greater proportion of sheep.

“ The most ready way of showing this, will be by drawing a comparison or contrast between the produce of this and some other country, and I shall fix on France, from its proximity, extent, and rivalry. In the autumn of last year, I, for the first time, visited France, and took a view of the greatest arable district, over an extent of nearly 300 miles ; I, at the same time, looked into the flocks, as to the character of the sheep themselves, as well as to the economy of management, and I then formed general ideas on the subject. I have now again visited that country, and looked attentively to those objects which had before made an impression on my mind, and have taken an opportunity of inspecting the royal parent

flock of merino sheep of Rambouillet, esteemed the best in France, and originally founded by Louis XVI., for the propagation and diffusion of that breed of sheep, and since carried on with great interest, under succeeding governments. Finding by that review my former opinions were established, at least in my own mind, I proceed to offer them to the public in illustration of this subject. I will first speak as respects the sheep themselves. There are few or none of the flocks in that country, but partake more or less of the merino cross; and it is little to be wondered at, either from the long time the royal flock has existed, and studiously been propagated, or from the spread of those numerous flocks which Buonaparte had driven into France from Spain, to the amount, it is said, of two hundred thousand sheep.

“ The ordinary flocks of the country are the most uneven of any I ever met with; and in very many of them may be found animals varying in wool from a merino fleece, to one resembling goat's hair; and the latter very evidently of such a character as a very great portion of the native sheep of that country originally were. They vary in size and form, from that of a British South Wales sheep to a small Berkshire sheep of the old variety, and a great portion of them seem to have the character of those latter,—long on the leg and body, with faces mottled, and a prominent curved countenance. In general they are hornless.

“ Different degrees of improvement may be traced in the wool, and indicated by the various shades of countenance, according as it partakes of the merino. I have now spoken of the lower classes of sheep; the fleece increases in goodness as the flocks ascend to merino blood, but in most a great unevenness of quality abounds, arising from neglect in forming the flocks, and which occasions abundant employment for the wool-sorter.

“ I have now to speak of the higher classes of French sheep in the merino flock of Rambouillet; and as this was to me a very interesting subject, I hope to be excused for being particular in detail.

“ The fold consisted of a spacious close building, fitted up with compartments for the rams and ewes, and lofts above,

After examining the rams, (for the whole were in the fold and housed even in summer by night,) we proceeded to the ewes, and met the head shepherd, an intelligent man, half way on his return. He conducted us quickly to the ewes, and I looked them carefully over. I requested him to show me some of those which he deemed the best. In his selection he evidently was wholly governed by the fineness of the fleece, without regard to the form of the sheep, some of those shown being very plain. As I afterwards walked through the flock, I requested him to catch one which I pointed out: he shook his head. 'Ah! sir,' he exclaimed, 'you have fixed on the worst fleece in the whole flock.' It proved of a character I had anticipated. He afterwards produced some specimens of the wool from the last clip, and gave me a few samples. The sheep in size are certainly the largest pure merinos I have ever seen. The wool is of various qualities, many sheep carrying very fine fleeces, others middling, and some rather indifferent; but the whole is considerably improved from the quality of the original Spanish merinos. In carcase and appearance, I hesitate not to say, that they are the most unsightly flock of the kind I ever met with. The Spaniards entertained an opinion that a looseness of skin under the throat and other parts contributed to the increase of the fleece; and they rather encouraged it, so as to produce wrinkles of it in various parts of the body. This idea has always appeared to me as wild as that which some of our theorists have entertained, that by laying the lands in high ridges and low furrows, the surface of the earth and its produce was increased. This ridge-and-furrow system in the sheep, the French have so much enlarged on, that in length of years they have produced in this flock individuals with dew-laps almost down to the knees, and folds of skin on the neck like frills, covering nearly the head. Several of these animals seem to possess pelts of such looseness and size, that one skin would nearly hold the carcases of two such sheep. The pelts themselves are particularly thick, which is unusual with merino sheep. The rams' fleeces were stated at 14, and the ewes' at 10lbs. in the grease. By washing they would be reduced one-half, thus giving seven and five pounds each; but the sheep were

large, and in unwashed wool it is difficult to estimate the real weight, since it differs so much, according to circumstances, as to the state of foulness.

“Some years ago, when writing a work relating to the state of agriculture, and the condition of the lower class of people in the southern part of Ireland, I sought earnestly to call the public attention towards bringing about an improved state of husbandry in that country, as one of the best means of promoting the interests of the nation at large, and of improving the comforts, condition, and happiness of the people in that island; and I endeavoured, amongst other things, to form a slight estimate of the number of sheep which might be kept on a given extent of land. That estimate I took very low,—viz. only as at the rate of forty sheep to a hundred acres on arable land. I will now take it very high, and only add ten to the former number, though on good-managed farms double the amount is often kept. This falls very short indeed of my own practice. Again, to keep my estimate well down, that I may not be accused of overcharging it to support my positions, I will only state the deficiency of the French flocks as of nine-tenths, instead, as I have supposed, nineteen-twentieths of what they might be, if the lands were brought into a very good course of practice.

“Let us estimate, then, that a million acres of arable land, with the proportion of fifty sheep on the average of one hundred acres, or, in other words, a sheep to every two acres, will, independent of corn and other crops, support five hundred thousand sheep, and that, according to an imperfect state of husbandry, like the French, only one-tenth of the number are kept, or fifty thousand, instead of half a million.

“The amount of mutton I will estimate as from the size of merino sheep only; and having stated the wethers, moderately fattened, at eight stone weight each, I must make a deduction of weight, considering half of those fattened off yearly to be ewes, and therefore put the average weight at seven stone each. For the same reason, I will put the price of mutton low, and estimate it at three shillings and four pence per stone, or five pence per pound. I will further suppose them to be fattened off by the time they were three years old, or one-third of the number kept to be brought to market annually.

“ The account of mutton will stand thus, on the

BETTER SYSTEM.

500,000 sheep kept on a million acres, whereof one-third, viz., 166,000 (abating the fraction) or in round numbers, say 150,000 fattened annually, producing, at 7 stones each, 1,050,000 stones weight, or 8,400,000 lbs. of mutton, at 5d. per lb.,—£175,000 in money.

DEFECTIVE SYSTEM.

One-ninth only of 500,000, viz., 55,555 sheep kept annually on a million acres, (whereof abating the fraction,) one-third, or 18,500 fattened annually, producing, at 7 stones each, 129,500 stones weight, or 1,036,000 lbs. of mutton, at 5d. per lb.,—£21,588 in money.

Consequently, there will be a difference between the two, or loss on the latter, amounting to £143,412 in money, and 7,364,000 lbs. of mutton as human food.

“ Next as to the difference in produce of wool; and it is immaterial whether it be estimated wholly on a dry, or in part a breeding flock, supposing a given number to be made off to allow room for the lambs. I shall state the weight of the fleece at $3\frac{1}{4}$ lbs., and I will put the wool at 1s. per lb.; the account will stand thus:—

BETTER SYSTEM.

500,000 sheep kept on a million of acres of land, therefore say 500,000 fleeces annually, at $3\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. each, or 1,625,000 lbs. of wool, at 1s. per lb., gives £81,250 in money.

DEFECTIVE SYSTEM.

One-ninth only of 500,000, is 55,555 sheep kept, (abating the fraction,) or 55,555 fleeces annually, at $3\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. each, or 180,553 lbs. of wool, at 1s. per lb., gives £9,025 in money.

Thus making a deficiency or loss on the latter of £72,223 in money, and 1,441,447 lbs. of wool on the defective system, for every million of acres of arable land, between a bad and a good system, supported by sheep husbandry. The advantages also consequent on the increased produce of human food in corn, brought about by such a different system, would be very great indeed. I am most firmly of opinion that the agricultural resources of the island are yet far from being brought into that state of productiveness which the best course of husbandry is capable of yielding.”

The pamphlet written by Mr. Trimmer was the last published in consequence of the investigation which took place in the House of Lords; and after the short discussion on the

Duke of Richmond's motion, on the 26th of May, and the majority against the resolution he proposed, it became evident that the landed interest were mistaken in the views they entertained, and the opinion of Parliament was clearly understood, that it was not for the interest of the wool grower or the manufacturer that a duty should be laid on the importation of foreign wool, and that restrictions on the trade in wool, whether foreign or British, must be injurious.

The question being thus settled,—and so settled as it is hoped will prevent any future agitation, which is always prejudicial,—little of interest respecting wool arose, and the great anxiety of the manufacturers was to get a still greater reduction of duty on the raw material and dyeing wares which were used in woollen fabrics. Government, alive to the interests of our commerce, were anxious to make those reductions so soon as they could be done consistently with the interests of the public revenue, and instructions were given to our Consuls abroad to give every information they could obtain respecting foreign manufactures, and the competition which they gave to British manufactures.

The compiler of these Memoirs was desired to call at the Board of Trade, early in January, 1830, and the following correspondence will show the object of that interview:—

LETTER TO BENJAMIN GOTT, ESQ., LEEDS.

“ London, 18th January, 1830.

“ My Dear Sir,

“ I received a note a few days ago, desiring me to call at the office of the Board of Trade; I went there on Saturday, and the inclosed patterns were given to me, together with a letter from Mr. Newman, our Consul at Nantz, which had been sent to the Board of Trade by the Earl of Aberdeen, (at that time Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.) I requested a copy, which is as follows:—

“ ‘ Sir,

“ ‘ Nantes, 12th November, 1829.

“ ‘ A Mr. Manfred, of Lille, having exhibited in this city some wools which he had dyed green and yellow, and are not affected by any acids or salts, I requested the favour of his giving me the enclosed patterns, which I have the honour to transmit to you, that in case the process of colouring these wools be found superior to the method pursued in England, further information may be derived on the subject from him.

“ ‘ I have the honour, &c. &c.,

“ ‘ HENRY NEWMAN,’

“ ‘ To John Bidwell, Esq., Foreign Office.’

“I shall be obliged to you to give the requisite information either to myself or direct to Thomas Lack, Esq., Secretary of the Board of Trade. This was the immediate object in view, and whether the process of dyeing will be valuable or not, the interest taken by Mr. Newman shows his anxiety for the prosperity of our manufactures, and this interest is followed up by Government.

“Many inquiries were, however, put to me respecting the state of the woollen manufacture and trade, and I gave what is my candid opinion, that it has not been more, if so much depressed as others, and, judging from the advance in English and foreign wool under 2s. 6d. per lb., as well as from the information I have been able to collect both as respects the home and the foreign markets, I hoped we might look forward for some improvement.

“I also took the opportunity (which I have always done, considering it of great importance,) to urge the advantage of giving every encouragement by the reduction of taxes and restrictions falling upon the woollen trade, and particularly upon olive oil; and I was induced to draw attention to this article in particular at present, as its importation at a nominal duty, together with a nominal duty on the importation of barilla, will give great encouragement to the manufacture of soap, and the present period holds out the prospect of its great extension. The landed interest in France have obtained from their Government what they term a protecting duty on the importation of olive oil, and the consequence is, that the soap manufactures of Marseilles, from whence large exportations were made, have been materially checked, and have been transferred to their wiser and more liberal neighbours in Italy, extending on the shores of the Mediterranean and the Adriatic, and particularly Trieste, and there can be no reason why the transfer should not be made to this country, if olive oil and barilla were admitted at a nominal duty, as we possess advantages in this country which they cannot have in the Mediterranean; this subject, I hope, will be considered; but I should like to have your opinion about it.

“I remain, &c.,

“JAMES BISCHOFF.”

ANSWER FROM MR. GOTT.

“Leeds, 27th January, 1830.

“The colours you have sent from the Board of Trade appear to be only such as are dyed when required by the Yorkshire dyers; and having consulted with one of the principal country dyers, as well as with our own, we are of opinion that nothing is to be learnt from Mr. Manfred on the subject.

"We are very glad to see the Board of Trade taking an interest in the manufactures of the country, and if the duties upon oil, dye-drugs, and every other impost that bears upon them, could be removed, the revenue would be no loser, full scope would be given to the vast manufacturing resources this country possesses, and from soap to silk they will find their way into every market in the world; restrict them and they languish. We trust, however, that the Government already sees this in the same light as practical tradesmen.

"I am, &c. &c."

Copies of the above letters were sent to the Board of Trade, and Mr. Bischoff was desired to give a list of the raw materials, dyeing wares, &c., used in the woollen trade, and also, separate from that, a list of other articles consumed by different manufacturers which pay duty, with the amount of those duties: he therefore obtained the requisite information, and wrote the following letter—

"TO THOMAS LACK, ESQ., SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE.

"Bucklersbury, 11th February, 1830.

"Sir,

"I have postponed sending you the enclosed list of duties paid on raw materials and dyeing wares used in our manufactures, till I was enabled to get some information on one or two points.

"The duties which fall altogether or chiefly on the woollen trade are, on sheep's wool, argols, barilla, lac, logwood, indigo, madders, fustic, train oil, palm oil, teazles, olive oil, bar wood, cochineal.

"A considerable reduction in the duty on olive oil and barilla would be of great use, not only as pressing upon the manufactures, but by encouraging the soap trade, now carried on on the shores of the Mediterranean.

"The duty on dye wood, 4s. 6d. per ton, from foreign states, appears small, but it is a high per centage. The price of fustic is £4 10s. per ton, the freight is £2 10s.; the charge may be estimated at 15s. per ton; so that upon an article which ought not to cost the merchant before shipment 20s., he has to pay 4s. 6d. duty, or about 20 per cent.: the reduction of that duty too, which raises very little money, would be of great use by encouraging returns, and giving freight to the ship owners.

"If also the duty on the exportation of woollens were repealed, it would do much good; no duty is paid on the exportation of

cotton goods, and foreigners consider that is a tax they ought not to pay.

“J. BISCHOFF.”

“Amount of duties paid on the importation of various articles, used altogether or chiefly in the woollen manufacture, in the year ending 5th January, 1829 :—

£.	£.
114,506 on sheep's wool.	182,008 brought forward.
1,410 on argols.	39,350 on indigo.
59,249 on barilla.	33,204 on madder.
3,620 on cochineal.	57,809 on olive oil.
1,416 on fustic.	15,071 on palm oil.
1,807 on logwood.	16,233 on train oil.
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£182,008 carried forward.	£343,675

“Amount of duty on exportation of woollen manufactures not ascertained.

“Amount of duty on articles used in other manufactures :—

£.	£.
33,916 on hides untanned.	143,725 brought forward.
9,373 on Valonia.	17,336 on silk, raw and
5,606 on pot and pearl ashes.	worked.
4,976 on flax.	93,759 on silk thrown.
87,909 on hemp.	278,558 on cotton wool.
1,945 on rags for paper.	1,247 on yellow berries.
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£143,725 carried forward.	£534,625

Mr. Bischoff was then desired to ascertain the present rate of wages, as compared with former periods, and particularly how they had affected hand-loom weavers since the introduction of power-looms. The following were the answers to his inquiries, which were transmitted to the Board of Trade :—

LETTER FROM A VERY INTELLIGENT MERCHANT
MANUFACTURER.

“Halifax, 6th March, 1830.

“MY DEAR SIR,

“I don't know that you could put to me a more difficult question than the one in the former part of your letter. The changes that have been introduced into the woollen manufactory since

1787 have been so very great, as to render it almost impossible for any one to give a strictly correct answer, founded, as it ought to be, on fact, rather than opinion. At that period the present system of machinery was quite in its infancy, and the old truly domestic system of carding, spinning, and weaving was carried on in every cottage. White goods were at that time the principal manufacture in this district, and from the inquiries which I have been able to make in so limited a time, I find that a kersey, for which all the operations of manufacturing 25s. and 30s. would at that time have paid, would not, with the present improvements, or rather with the entire substitution of machinery for hand labour, now cost 12s. or 13s.; but a fact of this kind can be no guidance, as the employment of machinery would alone account for the whole of the proportion of the difference. As far as my own experience goes, and as near as I can judge from reference to old books, I should say that the price of weaving alone advanced rapidly from about the year 1800 to 1812 or 1814, and since that time has gradually decreased. In round numbers, and speaking generally without reference to particular periods, when the price has been affected by temporary and accidental circumstances, I should estimate the decrease made in the wages of my own weavers at about 25 per cent. since 1814, or, to speak more correctly, since 1820, for I believe wages were on the whole pretty stationary in the intervening period, but I may fairly add, that a considerable portion of this deduction is compensated to the weaver by the superiority of the work when placed in his hands,—I mean by the improved manufacture and strength of his warps, &c., on which the real *bonâ fide* price of weaving so much depends.

“ In the manufacture of flannels, I think a greater revulsion has taken place than the per centage before mentioned, not only in the actual price paid for particular qualities, but the master manufacturers have been continually urging on their workmen to improve the same qualities by smaller spinning, to a degree that flannels, nominally of the same quality as formerly, have now nearly double the quantity of labour expended upon them, than was the case twenty years ago: but even in this manufacture, a very considerable proportion of the reduction may be accounted for by the intervention of improved machinery, and by means gradually adapted to facilitate even hand labour.

“ With regard to power-looms, I can speak with more confidence. Their introduction into the woollen manufacture, (with the exception of worsted stuff-goods) has been so recent, that the slightest effect upon the price of weaving woollens cannot as yet, by any possibility, have been felt; they are as yet very partially

introduced, and with the exception of those woollens in the manufacture of which worsted warps are used, are most completely in their infancy. Although I cannot imagine that the use of power-looms will at any period reduce the price of woollen weaving materially below its present standard, (the expense attending power in these goods being comparatively so heavy) yet I think they may hereafter prevent any considerable reaction towards an advance, during a more prosperous state of our manufactures. In the coarsest description of woollens, I suspect that hand-weaving is already cheaper than it could be done by power, and, should the power-looms hereafter affect the price of weaving finer woollens, this will, in my opinion, arise more from the superiority of the workmanship, than from any saving in the price of labour, arising from their use.

“ It has always appeared to me, ever since I knew anything of manufacturing, that the weaver was remunerated more for his labour than any other description of workman in the woollen manufacture, and I do not think that, taking every circumstance into consideration, the *bonâ fide* remuneration to him has been materially reduced of late years.”

LETTER FROM RICHARD FAWCETT, ESQ.

“ Bradford, Yorkshire, 10th March, 1830.

“ My dear Sir,

“ Your favour I have received, and shall be glad to give any information I can to the Board of Trade. Your letter should have been answered sooner, but it required some investigation to be able to give the information desired. I find that it will be very difficult to get the rate of stuff-weaving in each year since 1787; and I feel that this would in no way assist the present investigation; for the taste of purchasers, and the qualities and kinds of goods are so changed, that no estimate of the relative value of labour could be ascertained by it. But fortunately I have by me a printed document, which was drawn up by myself, Mr. Aldam, and Mr. Banks, above eleven years ago, and by which you will find that the wages had at that period greatly lowered, and the fear of greater depression was the cause of this document being issued, and I think you may, from the date of this, say, that power looms were introduced, and have been since gradually increasing. Wages at that period, of what was the principal manufacture, viz., 44 inch plain-backs, 5s. 6d. was paid for weaving, and at this time only 2s. 9d. is paid; and this has been done in the face of a greatly increasing demand; the other qualities of goods are greatly decreased in wages in the same proportion.

"At the present time, I have no doubt, from the very best information, that we have arrived at that point when the hand-loom can meet the power-loom manufacturer, but in case of any improvement in trade, should even sixpence per piece advance be given, it would immediately be a bonus to the power-loom, and increase them so as to bring down wages again to their present level.

"The lowering of wages in the goods to which I have before alluded, does not arise from their having gone out of demand; on the contrary, plain-backs (bombazets) as they are called, are made in greater quantities than any other description of goods, and I think I should not be saying too much, were I to say that double the quantity of these goods are now made to what there were eleven years ago. I have had conversation yesterday with Mr. Aldam and Mr. Thompson, both of whom you know, and they are decidedly of opinion that power-loom have been the cause of this depression in wages, and it is one which we cannot but lament, as the weavers are, of all classes we have to do with, the most orderly and steady, never at any period, that I know of, constraining an advance of wages, but submitting to every privation and suffering with almost unexampled patience and forbearance.

"I have thought it right to make these observations to you, to give you some idea of their present situation and future prospects, which are, I must confess, any thing but bright. Any further information that I can give you I should be happy to do.

"It is Mr. Aldam's opinion as well as my own, that the data in this printed circular, is the best ground we could give you so as to be able to form a correct opinion."

The document referred to, and inclosed in Mr. Fawcett's letter, was the rate of wages fixed by the manufacturers of Bradford in 1819, and which were as follows:—

40 sett Wildbores,	60 hanks, ...	4s. 0d. per piece.
44 do.	62 do. ...	4s. 9d. "
44 do.	70 do. ...	5s. 3d. "
46 do.	74 do. ...	5s. 6d. "
48 do.	78 do. ...	6s. 6d. "
50 do.	84 do. ...	7s. 6d. "
52 do.	86 do. ...	8s. 6d. "
40 sett Plain-backs	64 do. ...	4s. 6d. "
44 do.	72 do. ...	5s. 6d. "
46 do.	80 do. ...	6s. 6d. "
48 do.	82 do. ...	7s. 6d. "
50 do.	84 do. ...	7s. 6d. "

Rate of Wages in Bradford (1819) continued.

52 sett	Plainbacks	.....	26	do.	...	8s. 0d.	"
9 gate	Calimancoes	ribbed	50	do.	...	4s. 0d.	"
9	"	do. plain	50	do.	...	4s. 0d.	"
10	"	do. ribbed	60	do.	...	4s. 6d.	"
10	"	do. plain	60	do.	...	4s. 6d.	"

LETTER FROM MR. THOMAS BISCHOFF, JUN. TO MR. JAMES BISCHOFF.

"Dear Uncle,

"Leeds, March 9, 1830.

“I have received your letter respecting the prices paid for weaving; the subject will require more time than I expected, to ascertain it correctly. Mr. Gervase Walker, (trustee to the Cloth Hall,) has taken much trouble to furnish a test, which you have on the other side. If the manufacturers had full employment for their weavers, they would at present earn about 15s. per week in the neighbouring villages, but the wages would be higher in Leeds.

WAGES FOR WEAVING CLOTH.

1766	.....	a weaver	earned	.....	12s.	per week.
1792	.....	do.	do.	.....	18s.	„
1798	.....	do.	do.	.....	12s.	„
1806	... ..	do.	do.	.....	13s. 6d.	„
1809	.....	do.	do.	.....	15s.	„

and for the last ten years, varying from 10s. to 12s. per week."

**LETTER FROM MR. JAMES BISCHOFF TO WILLIAM IRVING, ESQ.,
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE CUSTOMS.**

"My dear Sir,

" Bucklersbury, March 13, 1830.

"I fear I have not been able to obtain all the information you desire respecting the wages paid for weaving.

“Power-looms have not been applied to much extent in the manufacture of goods made solely from wool; they have been introduced chiefly in low cotton manufactures, viz. calicoes and long cloths and shirtings, which are made in imitation of goods formerly and indeed now manufactured in the East Indies, and which passed in transit through London to other markets. These were first superseded by the low cotton manufactures called Domestics, which were made in the United States of America, and those have been since supplanted by the power-loom cloths of Lancashire, in most of the markets of Europe, and South America. I wrote for information to Mr. James Ramsbotham, of Manchester, but he refers to Mr. G. W. Wood, the president of their Chamber of

Commerce, who is now in London. The other articles of manufacture, into which power-looms have been much introduced, are narrow worsted goods, principally bombazets, part of which are called plain-backs. The letter from Mr. Fawcett, of Bradford, with the document which he inclosed, gives much information respecting the rate of wages in that manufacture, showing that at the present low rates, hand-labour has the advantage, though he thinks that an advance in the price of weaving of even 6d. per week, would turn the scale in favour of power. Power-looms have been partially introduced into the manufacture of flannels, baizes and other articles, which are made from the mixture of wool and cotton or worsted: the letter of a very intelligent friend near Halifax, who, I am sorry to say, wishes his name to be omitted, gives much information respecting them.

"Power-looms have not, I believe, been much applied to the woollen cloth manufactures in Yorkshire. I know of only one manufactory of cloth by power-looms, which is carried on by Mr. P. Marsland, in Cheshire. Mr. Thomas Bischoff, Jun.'s letter gives some particulars as to the rate of wages for weaving cloth in Yorkshire.

"Referring, therefore, to the inclosed letters, I think it may be desirable to point out in what particulars machinery or power has a decided advantage, and where it is doubtful. It is generally computed that the wear and tear, or the expense of keeping up machinery, is equivalent to the wages of one, or perhaps two men out of three, and consequently if, in a manufactured article, the saving of labour is not in that ratio, power may not answer. An example may perhaps best explain my meaning. In the process of spinning by power, one man is required to work the machine, and two children to watch and repair the threads: they spin one hundred and fifty threads, some much more, by a machine, which, without power, required one hundred and fifty women or children, and consequently power saves the labour of forty-nine in fifty; the manufacture could not have been carried on without that machine. In the process of *weaving*, one child is required to watch and repair two pieces of stuff goods whenever the threads break, which required by hand-labour two children to weave; consequently the saving of labour by power-looms is not half. The advantages of power in spinning is evident; the advantage in weaving is very doubtful, and can only answer when the rate of wages is high, either from the price of food, or from great demand for goods, when both power and hand-looms are fully employed.

"In speaking of wages for weaving, you will understand that from improvements made long before power-looms were used, a

woman, or a child ten years old, could weave bombazets, and consequently the competition now is betwixt power and the labour of children."

In October, 1830, I was desired to call again at the Board of Trade. Mr. Herries, then President of that department, desired I would send him the prices of raw materials, as compared with last year, or any former period, and of the actual condition of the woollen and other manufactures. I consequently wrote the following letter :—

"Sir,

"Bucklersbury, 27th Oct., 1830.

"In compliance with your wish that I would send you information respecting the present prices of raw materials, as compared with those of last year, and other periods, as well as general information with regard to the present state of our manufactures, I beg leave to say that the woollen trade is that to which I have given the most attention. When the committee of the House of Lords inquired into that subject in 1828, the price of South Down wool was 9d. per lb., and fell afterwards to 6½d. per lb., but the best Sussex wool has now attained 15d. to 16d. per lb., which, by the wool growers themselves, was then considered a remunerating price; and this is brought about without protecting duty, proving the impolicy of the measures they proposed.

"The following are the prices of English and foreign wool since 1827 :—

	1827.		1828.		1829. Spring 1830.				Oct. 1830.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Dorset fleeces ...	0	9	0	7	0	6½	0	8	1	0½
South Down ...	0	10	0	8	0	6½	0	7	1	0
Kent long wool	0	10	11		10½		0	9½	1	0
Spanish Leonesa	2	10	2	6	2	0	2	4	2	6
Do. Segovia ...	1	10	1	9	1	7	1	10	2	0
Saxon Electoral	5	0 to 5 6	6	0 to 6 6	4	0 to 5 0	4	6 to 5 0	4	6 to 5 0
Do. prime	3	0 „ 3 6	3	0 „ 3 6	2	6 „ 2 9	3	0 „ 0 0	3	6 „ 0 0
Do. others	1	4 „ 2 4	1	4 „ 2 4	1	0 „ 2 0	1	6 „ 1 9	2	4 „ 2 8
New S. Wales...	0	8 „ 0 9	10	„ 0 0	1	3 „ 1 4	1	6 „ 1 9	2	4 „ 2 8
Van D. Land ...	0	4 „ 0 0	0	4 „ 0 5	0	9 „ 0 0	1	2 „ 2 0	1	3 „ 2 4

"South Down wool has advanced in price in a greater proportion than foreign wool, because it was more depressed, and because by certain improvements in machinery, it is now used in the manufacture of worsted goods, for which, from the shortness of its staple, it was formerly not adapted, and because considerable quantities of that, as well as of long wool, have been exported to

France and Flanders; New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land wools are much improved in quality and cleanliness, and have increased in value, because they are also adapted to the worsted trade.

"Cloth and other articles manufactured from wool have not obtained the same relative advance in price as wool. The usual estimate is, that when a raw material advances 25 per cent., the proportionate advance in yarn ought to be 15 per cent., and in cloth, &c. 10 per cent., when no advance has taken place in wages, which form so large a part of the manufactured article. Low woollen cloths, baizes, &c., have advanced from $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 per cent.

"The wool, woollen, and worsted dealers are in full activity, with great demand and large orders both for home consumption and for exportation; those foreign markets which were lost to our manufacturers when there was a tax on the importation of foreign wool, are gradually returning to us, and the trade may be considered to be in a very sound and prosperous condition.

	1897		1898		1899		Spring 1900		Oct. 1900	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Upland Cotton ..	0 5	to 0 6½	0 6½	to 0 7	0 5	to 0 5½	0 5½	to 0 7	0 6½	to 0 7½
Pernambuco ..	0 8	to 0 9	0 7½	to 0 8½	0 7	to 0 7½	0 7½	to 0 8½	0 8½	to 0 9½
Surat ..	0 4	to 0 5½	0 3½	to 0 4½	0 3	to 0 4½	0 4½	to 0 5½	0 4½	to 0 6½
Calico, &c. ..	4 9	to 5 3	4 6	to 4 9	4 9	to 4 7	4 4½	to 4 9	4 6	to 5 0
27 Inch Power Loom										
Cloth ..	8 6	to 8 9	7 6	to 7 10	7 9	to 8 1	7 4	to 7 7	8 4	to 8 7
33 Inch ditto ..	9 0	to 9 6	8 0	to 8 6	8 4	to 9 0	8 0	to 8 6	8 10	to 9 6

"The cotton trade is good, with steady demand for manufactured goods; though, in consequence of the disturbed state of Flanders, and the advanced state of the season of the year, there is a check to the exportation of cotton twist.

	1897	1898	1899	1900	Oct. 1900
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Flax Riga P. L. R.	£ 41	£ 39	£ 39	£ 37 16s.	£ 31
Hemp ..	£ 30	£ 30	£ 42	£ 45	£ 39 10s.

"This advance in flax has arisen from the failure of the crops in Russia; the manufactured article has advanced about 7 per cent., but this is difficult to obtain in the market, and bearing no proportion to the advance in the raw material, there is a check to the manufacture. Silk is advanced about 10 per cent. since the spring.

"The following articles are also used in our manufactures:—

	1897	1898	1899	1900
Gallipoli Oil ..			£ 44 0s.	£ 60 0s.
Whale Oil ..	£ 24 0s.	£ 26 0s.	£ 30 0s.	£ 30 0s.
Palm Oil ..	£ 25 0s.	£ 23 0s.	£ 23 10s.	£ 28 0s.
Tallow Y. C. ..	£ 30 0s.	£ 37 0s.	£ 34 0s.	£ 40 0s.
Barilla ..	£ 6 0s.	£ 8 0s.	£ 7 0s.	£ 7 0s.
Indigo, purple and violet ..	11s. 0d. to 11s. 6d.	8s. to 9s. 9d.	7s. 3d. to 8s. 0d.	5s. 9d. to 6s. 0d.
Ditto Copper ..	8s. 6d. to 9s. 6d.	7s. to 7s. 6d.	5s. 0d. to 5s. 9d.	3s. 9d. to 4s. 4d.

The great advance in oil and tallow has been occasioned by recent losses in the Greenland fisheries. The fall in indigo is owing to over-production; the average crop in the East Indies is estimated at 120,000 maunds, the last crop was 150,000 maunds, and it is supposed the next will be 200,000 maunds. Every branch of our manufactures is well employed, and a degree of soundness and prosperity pervades them which has been unknown for several years; the stocks both of raw and manufactured goods are much reduced, and the demand brisk.

“ I have the honour to be, &c.,

“ JAMES BISCHOFF.”

“ To the Right Honourable J. C. Herries, &c. &c.”

In the year 1833, a committee of the House of Commons was appointed to inquire into the state of trade, shipping, manufactures, &c.: there were many of the most intelligent and influential bankers, merchants, and shipowners examined, but chiefly as to banking, the monetary system, and shipping; very little inquiry was made respecting wool and woollens, and that chiefly with a view to ascertain the competition which the British manufacturer has to contend against on the continent. The following are the only answers bearing upon the subject of this compilation:—

JOSHUA BATES, Esq., partner in Messrs. Baring's house.—The tenor of our information is, that large quantities of wool, usually bought at Breslau and other fairs for consumption in England, have this year been purchased in the fleece by German manufacturers; and that at present, for the fairs that are immediately coming on, it is supposed that the largest portion of the wool is already purchased by them. I should suppose the foreign manufacturers are much more particular now than they used to be, especially with regard to woollens, as to length, breadth, and weight; my belief is, too, that the woollen goods of England have much improved.

Mr. HENRY HUGHES, wool broker, London.—The country we have most to dread in our woollen manufacture is the Netherlands. I know the condition of the woollen manufactures there; they are at this time in a very prosperous state. They compete with us in foreign markets, particularly the Grecian Archipelago; the whole of that trade is getting into the hands of the Netherlands manufacturers. British wools

have been principally exported to France and the Netherlands: the wools that are exported are the Kent and Lincolnshire long wools, or the wools of the Leicester and South Down sheep, the staple of which is sufficiently long for combing purposes.

A very able and useful book was this year published under the superintendence of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, entitled—

“SHEEP: their Breeds, Management, and Diseases: to
“which is added, the MOUNTAIN SHEPHERD'S MANUAL.
“By W. YOUATT.

It is impossible to do justice to this work, which occupies about 600 pages. Passing over subjects which have been already mentioned, large extracts will be made.

“In order that the peculiar qualities and relative value of different breeds of sheep may be duly estimated, when more precise descriptions of that animal begin to be found in the records of various countries, and in the narrations of travellers and the works of agriculturists, it will be advantageous to devote a few pages to the consideration of the structure, and varieties and uses of wool.

“*The structure of the skin.*—The skin of the sheep and of animals generally, is composed of three textures. Externally is the cuticle or scarf skin, which is thin, tough, devoid of feeling, and pierced by innumerable minute holes, through which pass the fibres of the wool and the insensible perspiration.

“Below this is the rete mucosum, a soft structure, its fibres having scarcely more consistence than mucilage, and being with great difficulty separated from the skin beneath.

“Beneath is the cutis or true skin, composed of innumerable minute fibres, crossing each other in every direction; highly elastic in order to fit closely to the parts beneath, and to yield to the various motions of the body, and dense and firm in its structure, that it may resist external injury. Blood vessels and nerves, countless in number, pierce it, and appear on its surface under the form of papillæ, or minute eminences, while, through thousands of little orifices, the exhalant absorbents pour out the superfluous or redundant fluid.

“The substance of the hide combines with the tanning principle, and is converted into leather.

“*Anatomy of the wool.*—In the fatty and cellular substance immediately beneath the cutis or true skin—some say embedded in the true skin,—there are numerous minute vascular bulba. They arise from the cellular texture, and penetrate into the true skin: they consist of a double membrane, the outer one of which stops at the pore or minute aperture in the skin, and between the two membranes a vascular texture has been traced. From the interior and centre of the inner membrane there proceeds a minute eminence or papilla, which, surrounded by the membrane, projects into and through the cutis, while numerous fine filaments unite to form or to surround a seeming prolongation of the original papilla. In this way it gradually penetrates the cutis, and the rete mucosum, from which it takes its colour, and then, either pushing its way through the cuticle, the displaced portion of which falls off in form of scurf, or carrying a part of the cuticle with it as a kind of sheath, it appears under the form and character of hair.

“Whether it is a perfectly solid body, as some, describing its appearance when subjected to the power of a microscope, have affirmed, (see Hooke’s *Micrographia*,) or whether it consists of a hard exterior tube, with a medulla or pith within, (vide Leuwenhoeck’s *Philosophical Transactions*,) has not been demonstratively proved. It is extremely difficult so to bring the hair under the power of a lens, with a focus on not more than one-twentieth or one-thirtieth of an inch, as to obtain a knowledge of its interior structure. Those who are most accustomed to the use of the microscope, are scarcely yet agreed as to the external form of the hair. That which is confidently affirmed by some, and which would beautifully explain several phenomena attending it, is as confidently denied by others. It will not, then, occasion much surprise if difference of opinion exists as to the internal conformation.

“The fibrous structure of the hair is sufficiently evident; the gossamer filaments of the albuminous gluey substance within the thinner membrane at the root, have been seen converging in order to form the stump; and when the hair or wool has been diseased, or decaying, or dead, it has been

observed to split into numerous fibres at its point. In this it bears an evident analogy to the structure of the nail of the human being, the hoof of the horse, and the horn of the bullock.

"Like them it is vascular, although it grows, as they do, principally by additions from the roots; it is capable of deriving nourishment from the vessels belonging to its pulp, which seem to accompany it to a considerable distance from the root, if not through its whole extent. The 'pica polonica,' a disease whose existence is doubted by some, but of occasional occurrence, of which there is abundant testimony, completely establishes the vascularity of the hair itself, for it is an enlargement of the bulk of the hair,—an enlargement of the individual hairs—so much so as in some cases to permit the passage of red blood, for the hair will bleed when divided by the scissors.

"It is amusing to compare the different testimony given by those who have observed the hair, assisted by the most powerful lenses, who were skilled in the use of the instrument, and who would have no interest to deceive.

"Leuwenhoeck and Hooke published their microscopical observations about the same time.

"*Leuwenhoeck*, in the 'Philosophical Transactions,' 1678, vol. 12, page 1004, says, 'The whole hair consists of little strings, whereof there were about a thousand in one hair, fewer or more, according to the thickness of the hair. Whether these strings are hollow, like so many pipes or vessels, I cannot possibly say; but it seemeth to me that they are, so that I conceive we may not unfitly compare the clods of the hair, [he had been speaking of irregularities on the surface of the hair,] consisting of the aforesaid irregular particles, to the bark of a tree, and the little strings which compose that part of the hair within, with the clods, to the pipes which make the wood. In larger hairs, as the bristles of a hog, these hairs appear to be hollow. The whole root, except the cuticle, consists of little strings, which I suppose to be veins or vessels, and I have shown the root of a hair, with all its fibres, so plainly, as if before our eyes we had seen a common tree with all its roots, except that these fibres in the root of a hair were all of one thickness.

“*Hooke*, *Micrographia*, page 156, says:—‘They (the hairs of his head) were for the most part cylindrical. Some of them were somewhat prismatical, but generally they were nearly round; they were all along from one end to the other transparent, although not very clear,—the end nearest the root appearing like a black transparent piece of horn. The roots of the hair were smooth, tapering inwards almost like a parsnip; but I could not find that it had any filaments, or any vessels like the fibres of a plant. The top, when split, which is common in long hairs, appeared like the end of a stick beaten until it was frittered, there being sometimes half a score splinters or more. They were all, so far as I was able to find, solid cylindrical bodies, not pervious like cane or bulrush; nor could I find that they had any pith, or distinction of rind or the like, as I have observed in horses’ hair, deer’s hair, and the bristles of a cat. Even the bristle of a hog was a large transparent horny substance, without the least appearance of pores or holes in it. Although I caused the light to fall in all the various ways I could think of, or that was likely to make the pores appear, if there had been any, I was not able to discover any. Those parts which appeared to be pores in one position of the light, I could find a manifest reflection to be cast from them in another.’

“*Bakewell* says,—‘Hair is frequently observed to split at its points into distinct fibres; a division has also sometimes been seen in the hair of wool. This seems to prove that they are formed of distinct long filaments, uniting in one thread or hair. In large hairs I have discerned a number of divisions from the root to the point. In one hair I distinctly perceived fifteen of these divisions or fibres lying parallel to each other, and in some of the fibres a further subdivision was distinguishable. Probably these subdivisions were each composed of others still smaller, which the limited power of our instruments may prevent us from discovering. If such be the structure of some animals’ hair, it is at least probable that the hair of all others may have a similar conformation, although the fibres of which they are composed may be too minute, or adhere too firmly together to permit us to separate or distinguish them.’—(“*Observations on Wool.*”)

“The weight of the evidence favours the supposition that

wool consists of an external rind or tube, and an internal pulp or collection of fibres, the pulp or pith being found in its young state, or near the root, and the fibres, like those of a tree, or the branch of a tree, occupying and forming the substance of the hair. The hair, however, possesses the principle of vitality in a very slight degree; it is formed of those materials which are comparatively little subject to decomposition, and therefore it will preserve its form and properties for a long and indefinite period.*

“There is considerable difficulty in describing the difference between wool and hair. They are essentially the same in chemical composition, and, to the unpractised eye, they bear much resemblance to each other in appearance. The smallness of the fibre, and its softness and pliability, can scarcely be considered as sufficient distinctive qualities or characters; for the hair yielded by some animals is as soft as any silk, while the wool of a few of the favourite breeds of sheep is objected to on account of its harshness. The colour and degree of transparency will not guide the observer, for wool differs in colour on different animals, and different parts of the same animal,—at the best, it is but a semi-transparent object, and some species of hair are as pervious to light, or as beautifully refract the rays of light, as any wool. The degree also of transparency which wool possesses, varies materially with the health and keep of the animal, and many other circumstances.

“*The form of the fibre.*—The fibre of the wool, having penetrated the skin, and escaped from the yolk, is of a circular form, (varying in diameter in different breeds, and in different parts of the same fleece,) generally larger towards the extremity, and also towards the root, and in some instances very considerably so.

“The filaments of white wool, when cleansed from grease, are semi-transparent; their surface in some places is beautifully polished, in others curiously encrusted, and they reflect the rays of light in a very pleasing manner. When viewed by the aid of a powerful achromatic microscope, the central parts of the fibre have a singularly glittering appearance.

Very irregularly placed minute filaments are sometimes seen branching from the main trunk, like boughs from the principal stem. This exterior polish varies much in different wools, and in wools from the same breed of sheep at different times. When the animal is in good condition, and the fleece healthy, the appearance of the fibre is really brilliant; but when the sheep has been half starved, the wool seems to have sympathised with the state of the constitution, and either a wan pale light, or sometimes scarcely any is reflected.

“As a general rule, the filament is most transparent in the best and most useful wools, whether long or short. It increases with the improvement of the breed, and the firmness and healthiness of the sheep and fleece; yet it must be admitted, that some wools have different degrees of transparency and opacity, which do not appear to affect their utility and value. In the Vigonian wools the staple is nearly opaque, but the wool is remarkable for its smooth and silky texture. It is, however, the difference of transparence in the same fleece, or in the same filament, that is chiefly to be noticed, as impairing the value of the wool.

“Various causes affect the fineness of the pile; and temperature, if not the most powerful of them, deserves more attention than has been paid to it. Sheep, in a hot climate, will yield a comparatively coarse wool, and those in a cold climate will carry a finer, but at the same time a closer and firmer fleece. In proportion to the coarseness of the fleece, will generally be its openness, and its inability to resist either cold or wet; while the coat of softer, smaller, more pliable wool will admit of no interstices between the fibres, and will bid defiance to frost and storms.

“A writer of high authority (‘Account of Pegu, by Mr. Hunter,’) thus expresses himself:—‘Sheep carried from a cold to a warm climate, soon undergo a remarkable change in the appearance of their fleece. From being very fine and thick, it becomes thin and coarse, until at length it degenerates into hair. Even if this change should not take place to its full extent in the individual, it will infallibly do so in the course of one or two generations. The sheep that we see covered with hair are not therefore in reality a different species from those that are woolly: nor is wool in its nature

specifically different from hair—it is only a softer and finer kind of hair. The effect of heat is nearly the same on the hair of other animals. The same species that in Russia, Siberia, and North America, produce the most beautiful and valuable furs, have nothing in the warmer climates but a coarse and thin covering of hair.’ Pasture has a great influence on the fineness of the fleece. The staple of the wool, like every other part of the sheep, must increase in length or in bulk when the animal has a superabundance of nourishment; and, on the other hand, the secretion which forms the wool must decrease like every other, when sufficient nourishment is not afforded. These are self-evident facts, and need not be enforced by any laboured argument; and therefore it is, that since the sheep breeder, living in a populous country, has begun, and judiciously so, to look more to the profit to be derived from the carcase, since the system of artificial feeding has been brought to so great perfection, and a larger and better animal has been earlier sent to market, and a far greater number of sheep can now be fed and perfected on the same number of acres, the wool also has been somewhat altered in character; it has grown in length, and it has increased in bulk of fibre. *It has not deteriorated, but it has changed.* If no longer fit for the purposes to which it was once devoted, it has become suited to others. If it no longer brings the average price it once did, it meets with a readier sale. The increase of the number of fleeces, and the increased weight of each fleece, go far to compensate for the diminution of price, while the improvement in the carcase more than supplies the deficiency, if in truth there were any.

“Connected with fineness is *trueness of staple*, as equal a growth as possible over the animal, a freedom from the shaggy portions here and there, which are occasionally observed on poor and neglected sheep. These portions are always coarse and comparatively worthless, and they indicate an irregular and unhealthy action of the secretion of wool, and which will probably weaken or render the fibre diseased in other parts.

“Comprised in trueness of fibre is another circumstance,—a freedom from coarse hairs which project above the general level of the wool in various parts, or, if they are not externally seen, mingle with the wool and debase its character.

“ *Soundness* is intimately connected with trueness; it means strength of the fibre generally, and also a freedom from those breaches or withered portions which sometimes prevail. The experienced eye will readily detect the breaches; but the hair generally may not possess a degree of strength proportionate to its bulk. This is ascertained by drawing a few hairs out of the staple, and grasping each of them singly by both hands, and pulling them until they break.

“ Soundness is a very important property in wool, and was absolutely indispensable in long wool, when that alone was subjected to the operation of the comb.

“ *Softness*.—If the pile be sound, there are few qualities in wool of so much consequence as softness. Since the importation of the soft wools of Spain and Saxony, even the farmer himself will no longer wear the good, but somewhat harsh clothing, with which he used to be content.

“ The opinion that softness was essential to the woolly fibre, is of no recent date. Varro speaks of the wool, ‘ *Quæ multa sit et mollis, villis altis et densis toto corpore.*’ Softness of pile is evidently connected with the presence and quantity of yolk. There is no doubt that this substance is designed not only to nourish the hair, but to give it richness and pliability.

“ *Felting*.—Although the clothing of the primitive family consisted of the skins of animals, and probably of the sheep, no very lengthened period would expire before the circumstance of the felting, or the matting of the wool on the back of the sheep, would attract attention. When these portions were separated from the fleece, experiment or accident might discover that these matted portions, or others that were not previously *harled*, might by moisture and pressure, or beating, be worked into a soft and pliable substance of almost any size or form, from which a covering far more comfortable than any skin might be contrived. This has been the progress of improvement in dress, and in the manufacture of wool in every country and almost every age. The wandering shepherds, who at the present day traverse regions similar to those in which the patriarch sojourned, thus manufacture the carpets that defend them from the cold and dampness of the ground. The Tartars spread two or three layers of

wool moistened, and tread it under foot for a few hours, and form their carpets without the aid of the loom. The practice of making cloth by the felting process, was not soon superseded by the invention of weaving, even among the most polished people. Pliny thus speaks of its continuance during his time:—'Moreover, wool of itself, driven into a felt, without spinning or weaving, serveth to make garments with, and if vinegar be used in the washing of it, such felts are of good proof to bear off the edge and point of the sword; yea, and more than that, they will check the course of fire.' The felting property of wool may be defined to be a tendency in the fibres to entangle themselves together, and to form a mass more or less difficult to unravel.

"The most evidently distinguishing quality between hair and wool is the comparative straightness of the former, and the crisped or spirally curling form which the latter assumes. If a little lock of wool is held up to the light, every fibre of it is twisted into numerous minute corkscrew-like ringlets. This is seen especially in the fleece of the short-woolled sheep, but although less striking, it is obvious even in wool of the largest staple.

"It will readily be seen that this curling form has much to do with the felting property of wool. It materially contributes to that disposition in the fibres, which enables them to attach and entwine themselves together; it multiplies the opportunities for this interlacing, and it increases the difficulty of unravelling the felt. Still, however, it is only that form of the fibre which affords the fairest opportunity for the exertion of the true felting power. It assists, and very effectively, in producing the phenomena of felting, but is not the principal agent concerned."

Mr. Youatt then proceeds to describe the process of felting, and gives a lengthened but very interesting account of the examination of wool of different kinds by himself and Mr. Thomas Plint, of Leeds, who took great pains on this subject, and who possesses great information respecting wool and the woollen manufacture. They, with other gentlemen, used a microscope of great power, and gave engraved descriptions of those wools to which the reader is referred, and, in conclusion, Mr. Y. says,—“There can no longer be any doubt with regard

to the general outline of the woolly fibre. It consists of a central stem, or stalk, probably hollow, or at least porous, and possessing a semi-transparency not found in the fibre of hair. From this central stalk, there springs at different distances, in different breeds of sheep, a circlet of leaf-shaped projections. In the finer species of wool these circles seemed at first to be composed of one indented or serrated ring; but when the eye was accustomed to them, this ring was resolvable into leaves or scales. In the larger kinds the ring was at once resolvable into these scales or leaves, varying in number, shape, and size, and projecting at different angles from the stalk, in the direction of the leaves of vegetables, from the root to the point, or farther extremity. In the bat there seemed to be a diminution in the bulk of the stalk, immediately above the commencement of the sprouting of the leaves, and presenting the appearance of the apex of an inverted cone, received in the hollowed cup like the base of another immediately beneath. The diminution in the fibre of the wool at these points could only be distinctly perceived, but the projection of the leaves gave a somewhat similar cone-like appearance. The extremities of the leaves in the long merino and Saxon wools were evidently pointed with acute indentations or angles, between them. They were pointed also in the South Down, but not so much, and the interposed vacuities were less deep and angular. In the Leicester the leaves are round, with a diminutive point or space. Of the actual substance and strength of these leafy or scaly circles, nothing can yet be affirmed, but they appear to be capable of different degrees of resistance, or of entanglement with other fibres, in proportion as their form is sharpened, and they project from the stalk, and in proportion, likewise, as these circlets are multiplied. So far as the examination has hitherto proceeded, they are sharper and more numerous in the felting wools than in others, and in proportion as the felting property exists. The conclusion seems to be legitimate, and, indeed, inevitable, that they are connected with, or, in fact, that they give to the wool the power of felting, and regulate the degree in which that power is possessed.

"If to this is added the curved form which the fibre of the wool naturally assumes, and the well-known fact that these

curves differ in the most striking degree in different breeds, according to the fineness of the fibre, and, when multiplying in a given space, increase both the means of entanglement and the difficulty of disengagement, the whole history of felting is unravelled. A cursory glance will discover the proportionate number of curves, and the microscope has now established a connexion between the closeness of the curves and the number of serrations. The Saxon wool is remarkable for the close packing of its little curves—the number of serrations are 2,720 to an inch; the South Down has numerous curves, but evidently more distant—the serrations are 2,080. In the Leicester the wavy curls are so far removed from each other, that a great part of the fibre would be dissipated under the operation of the card, and the serrations are 1860; and in some of the wools which warm the animals, but were not intended to clothe the human body, the curves are more distant, and the serrations are not more than 480. The wool-grower, the stapler, and the manufacturer, can scarcely wish for better guides.”

CHAPTER IX.

The Sheep of Africa and Asia—Sheep of Egypt—Ethiopia—Abyssinia—Madagascar—Cape of Good Hope—Angola—Guinea Coast—Barbary—Persia—Thibet—Cashmere Shawls—Sheep of India, with Particulars of the Sheep of the Himalayan Mountains, Ceylon, Java, China, and Tartary—The Argali—The Mountain Sheep of North America—The Alpaca of Peru—Sheep of Australia.

The Sheep of Africa and Asia.

SEVERAL breeds of sheep seem to be derived from a variety of the primitive race,* and are found in the countries which the patriarchs traversed. In Syria, the chief residence of the early shepherds, the fat-tailed sheep, or their variety, the broad-tailed sheep, still exist.† Mr. Youatt says, “the broad-tailed race of sheep is found scattered over almost as large an extent of country as the fat rumps. They differ in the accumulation of fat, compared with the general weight of the animal, and in the situation of the fat. In some, as in the sheep of Syria, it accumulates about the upper part of the tail; this strange collection of adipose matter has only shifted its situation a little way, viz., from the posterior part of the haunch—the very rump—to the superior part of the tail. This variety might have been at first accidental, and perpetuated either by accident or design. Others have two large lobes of fat at the sides of the tail, reaching as low as the hocks. This is an extension of the first deviation. For a third variety, the masses of fat not only extend to, but chiefly occupy, the inferior part of the tail, which is naked, and almost flesh coloured. This further deviation presents nothing more remarkable than is found in other breeds. Sheep

* Vide vol. i, page 19 and following, and frontispiece to the volume.

† Vide Extract from Dr. Russell's History of Aleppo, vol. i, page 23.

of one or the other of these varieties extend over Syria, Egypt, Southern Africa, Russia, India, and China.* The profusion of long wool and hair extending from the lower part of the neck to the brisket, gives it a singular and not unpleasant appearance." Dr. Anderson, from Pallas, gives a more satisfactory account of the form and qualities of this sheep, as found among the Bucharian Tartars. He says, it is seldom larger than the common Russian sheep: the head is like that of the fat-rumped, but the muzzle sharper, the body rather smaller than that of the fat-rumped; the ears long and pendent. They have a small collection of fat on the rump, (a further corroboration of their being merely varieties of the breed,) a tail fat and broad at the base, with a long narrow appendage, and the wool compact and thick, soft and elastic, regularly formed into frizzled circles.† Dr. Anderson well observes here, that there cannot be a clearer proof of the pureness and trueness of the wool, for if any hairs mingle with it, they are always observed at the birth of the lamb; they are then more fully grown than the wool, and often give to the fleece an unsightly shaggy appearance.‡ He adds, that a sheep of this character might be rendered exceedingly valuable under proper management; but that from a Tartar tribe it would be fruitless to look for improvement, which must be purchased at the expense of patience and labour, and especially when, in their estimation, so ample remuneration can be obtained by the slaughter of the lamb.§

* Vide frontispiece to vol. I.

† Anderson on Sheep, page 55.

‡ Speaking of the possibility of obtaining any of the Bucharian sheep for the purpose of experimental breeding, Dr. Anderson observes, that it would be attended with almost insuperable difficulty. The southern provinces of Siberia, which border on the Kirguise country, where the best fat-tailed Russian sheep are found, are at least 2,000 miles from Petersburg, and the cattle which are sent from Siberia to the capital of Russia occupy two years in completing their journey, passing through the hands of several different merchants on the way; it is, therefore, probable, that a great proportion of them would die or be lost on the journey. Bucharina is at least 1,000 miles beyond the Kirguise country, in the same route. The first destination of the Bucharian sheep and skins is the Siberian market. Their after route is a hazardous speculation. — Anderson, page 154.

§ Youatt, page 113, and following.

The Egyptian, Ethiopian, and Abyssinian Sheep.—Travellers give a very unsatisfactory account of the sheep near the eastern coast of Africa, and on the borders of the Red Sea. The fat-tailed sheep prevail in Egypt, and both varieties are found; but those with long tails, nearly or quite reaching to the ground, are more numerous than the broad-tailed kind. They are of a large size, mostly with black heads and necks, an external coat of hair, and their flesh well flavoured.*

In Nether Ethiopia the sheep begin to be more numerous; they are large, some of them with tails from 18 to 25 lbs. weight, with black heads and necks, and the remainder of their bodies white; others are quite white, with tails reaching nearly to the ground, and becoming curved at the extremity.† Here also the fat-rumped variety again begin to be found, smaller, more compact than those with long tails, with black heads and necks, and bearing resemblance to, but being of rather smaller size than the Persian sheep.‡

Proceeding farther southward, they are, according to Bruce, fatter, and all black, thin heads, large, and with ears remarkably short and small. They also, like all native sheep within the tropics, have an internal covering of hair, but that hair is sometimes remarkable for its lustre and softness. The tail is neither large nor fat, and the mutton is remarkable for its pleasant flavour.§ The smaller sheep, resembling, and, except in size, identical with the Persian or primitive sheep, is more prevalent. Here, too, pursuing this route through the African peninsula, we begin to find the many-horned sheep. When the usual number of horns is exceeded, most of the animals have four. Travellers, however, mention one variety that has six; but the existence of these does not rest on unquestionable authority.||

The Madagascar Sheep.—The eastern coast must now be pursued almost to the Cape of Good Hope, before we can

* Anderson, page 55.

† Dapper's Africa, page 86.

‡ Ogilby's Africa, 1670, pages 232 and 538, and frontispiece, vol. i.

§ Bruce's Travels, v. iv. page 277.

|| Travels in East Asia and Africa, vol. ii. page 399.

gather from travellers any authentic account of the character and value of the sheep. In the 13th degree of south latitude, however, the northern promontory of Madagascar presents itself, at no great distance from the African coast. The sheep resemble those on the opposite continent; they have large broad tails,* and nothing more would be said of them, had not Dr. Anderson given a long description of one of them, and drawn some important, yet not altogether correct conclusions from his examination of the animal. He says, "A Danish East Indiaman put into Leith Roads on her return home: I went on board to see what curiosities she had, and I there found a fine sheep, which was closely covered with a close coat of thick short hair, very smooth and sleek, like the coat of a well-dressed horse, but the hairs rather stiffer, and thicker set on the skin, and the colour a fine nut-brown. This sheep, I am told, was brought from the Island of Madagascar, and that all the sheep found on the island were of the same sort. Along with it was another sheep brought from India, carrying a very close fleece of good wool, which clearly proves the influence of breed, in overruling that of climate."†

Sheep of the Cape of Good Hope.—Barrow gives one of the best descriptions of them in his "Account of Southern Africa." He says that "they are long-legged, small in body, and thin in the fore-quarter, and across the ribs. The tail is short, broad, flat, naked on the under side, and weighing from six to twelve pounds. The fat is of a semi-fluid nature, or rather having the consistence of thick oil, and is frequently used as a substitute for it and butter.

"They are of every variety of colour, black, brown, bay, but mostly spotted; their necks are small, their ears long and pendulous. They are covered with strong frizzled hair, of which little use is made, except for cushions and mattresses. The sheep are neither washed nor shorn, but the wool is suffered to drop off of its own accord, which it does in September and October. The skins clothe the Hottentots and their children, or make bags for various household purposes."

These observations of Barrow refer to the native sheep

* Amer. Phil. Trans. iv, p. 24.

† Youatt, p. 116.

alone, whether the property of the Hottentots, or of the European settlers, English or Dutch. Burchell, in his "Travels in Africa," gives a fuller history of the purposes to which the skin of the Cape sheep is devoted. When their skins are properly dressed and cleaned, and a number of them sewed together, they form a much warmer covering than could be made from any other materials. The richer inhabitants, and those of Cape Town, who can afford themselves more expensive coverings, affect to dislike this cheap article, because they say it smells of mutton; but the boor (the Cape farmer) is enabled, by his immense flocks, to select such only as have a smooth fur, and so he obtains a handsome coverlet, so unlike what a European could imagine from sheep skins, that it may be doubted whether many persons would even guess from what animal it was made. Those that have been brought to Europe have been viewed as the skins of some unknown quadruped. Few furs can be more beautiful than the selected skins of lambs thus prepared.

When the Dutch began to settle in the neighbourhood of the Cape of Good Hope in 1650, the Caffres, notwithstanding their wild and savage life, were, to a considerable degree, shepherds. The country abounded with cattle, and more especially with sheep. The employment and the wealth of the boors, until they devoted themselves to the cultivation of the vine, consisted in the rearing and pasturage of oxen and sheep. Burchell sketches the following evening scene, "It was an amusing and interesting sight to behold, a little before sunset, the numerous flocks streaming like an inundation over the ridges and low hills, or moving in a compact body, like an army invading the country, and driven forwards only by two or three Hottentots, with a few dogs. At a great distance the confused sound of their bleating began to be heard, but as they approached nearer, the noise gradually increased, till the various cries of the multitude mingled with the whole air and deadened every other sound. The shepherds seldom returned home without bringing under their arms a lamb or two, which had dropped in the course of the day, and as yet too weak to follow their dam. The faculty which the Hottentots possess of distinguishing the features, as it were, and

characteristic appearance of each sheep, is almost incredible, and they seldom mistake the ewe to which each lambkin belongs."

Dreadful was the system of oppression pursued by the European invaders. The native inhabitants were all massacred or enslaved, or driven into the interior, whence they often returned to annoy and avenge themselves on their tyrants. It had been hoped that when the colony of the Cape was permanently ceded to the British, the condition of the original possessors of the country, debased and strangely changed in form and mind, would have been ameliorated; and so it doubtless would and will be, but the sense of oppression and injury rankled in the minds of the Bushmen, and, instigated by some runaway slaves, and infuriated by some perhaps too severe acts of legal justice, they have turned on their masters, and, although the eventual security of the colony is not perhaps endangered, more than 80,000 head of cattle, and sheep almost innumerable, were in 1834 driven away and destroyed by the natives.

When the value of the merino wool began to be acknowledged, a few of the Spanish sheep were sent to the Dutch colonies at the Cape of Good Hope; but the native sheep seemed, from the nature of its covering, to be so plainly adapted to the situation in which it was placed, and the prejudice was so strong and so universal that it would be useless to attempt to preserve the fineness of the merino wool in the torrid clime of Southern Africa, and—perhaps the prevailing motive,—the use of the fat obtained from the tail of the sheep was so various, and so identified with the likings and habits of the colonists, that few of the Dutch farmers could be induced to give the new comers even the shadow of a trial. The experiments that were made were confined chiefly to the government farms, and a few others in their immediate vicinity. It is needless to say that they were, to a great degree, unsuccessful.

When these colonies were ceded to Great Britain, a more extensive and a fairer trial was given to the merino sheep at the Cape; and even then, though neither pains nor expense were spared, the success was at first far from being encouraging. Owing to bad management of various kinds, the wool

actually seemed to have degenerated, and it was so much clogged with sand and small vegetable substances, as greatly to deteriorate its value in manufacture. A very intelligent traveller, and a colonist at the Cape, Mr. Thompson, confirms this statement:—"This I am fully aware of, having sent home some wool esteemed of good quality, which lost above half its weight in washing, and produced a cloth about 12s. per yard in value, which I sold at the Cape, and the result paid me little more than five per cent. on the capital."

The difficulties which at first opposed the establishment of the merino sheep have now been conquered, and wool of excellent quality from almost every part of the colony, and particularly from the eastern districts, has been sent to England. Some British sheep have also been tried, particularly the South Downs, but there, as in their native clime, these have yielded to the merino so far as the manufacture of fine cloth was concerned.

In 1804, there were in the colony...	536,634 sheep.
In 1811, there were in the colony...	1,293,740 do.

Increase in sheep	757,106
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In 1810, wool imported from the Cape	29,717 lbs.
In 1833, wool imported from the Cape	93,325 lbs.

Increase	63,608 lbs.*
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Angola Sheep.—Skirting the south-western coast towards Guinea, too little is known of the Africans, their habits, or possessions, to justify any detailed account of the sheep. A very singular sheep is, however, found in Angola, called the *Zunu*. Its legs are long and slender, but the arms and shanks are muscular and strong; there is a slight elevation at the withers, the chest is narrow and flat, and falling in between the arms; the false ribs project, and give to the carcase a strong resemblance to that of the zebra. The horns are very small, drooping at first, and then turning inwards and upwards: the tail, slender and almost naked, reaches very near to the ground. The whole animal is covered with short close hair, giving a very curious appearance to the tail. The

* Youatt, p. 117, and following.

neck and upper part of the carcase and tail are a pale brown colour; the head, throat, legs, belly, and the inferior parts of the tail, are all white; the forehead is unusually prominent; the eyes small and sunken, the ears exceedingly large and pendulous.*

Other sheep, occupying the kingdom of Congo, are also covered with hair of a pale brown colour, not close like the Zunu, but loose and open, and with two wallets beneath the throat. The *Coguo* is also an inhabitant of Angola, having a greater proportion of wool under the hair, and of a finer quality, and white, with spots of a light brown colour, the tail long and slender, but otherwise more resembling some of the European breeds. The long fat-tailed sheep, however, generally prevails. Anthony Hartwell, writing in 1597, thus describes them:—"Their muttons or sheepe are twice as grate as the sheepe of our countrey, for they divide them into five quarters, (if a man may so call them,) and reckon the tayle for one, which commonly wayeth some twenty or thirty pounds.†"

The Guinea Sheep.—There are two kinds of sheep on the Slave Coast; one is of a small size, and not unlike the prevailing European sheep, but of not more than half their size. They have no wool, "but," says the old Dutch traveller, Bosman, "the want is supplied with hair, so that here the world seems inverted, for the sheep are hairy and the men are woolly. The flesh is dry and unpalatable."‡ Barbot gives a similar account:—"The sheep are not so large as ours, and have no wool, but hair like a goat, with a sort of main like a lion on the neck, and so on the rump, and a bunch at the end of the tail; they are indifferent meat, but serve here for better."§

The most numerous breed of Guinea sheep is of a very different character. The male is horned, the horns generally forming a semi-circle, with the points forward; the females are hornless. A modern traveller says, that the sheep in Guinea have so little resemblance to those in Europe, that a

* Animal Kingdom, vol. iv., p. 327.

† A Report of the Kingdom of Congo, translated by Anthony Hartwell, from Odoardo Lopez, p. 202. Youatt, p. 124, vide frontispiece to vol. i.

‡ Bosman's Description of the Gold Coast of Guinea.

§ Churchill's Collection, vol. v. p. 133.

stranger, unless he heard them bleat, could hardly tell what animals they were, being covered with white and brown hair like a dog.*

Barbary Sheep.—Still pursuing the western coast of Africa in a northward direction, and traversing the kingdoms of Morocco and Fez, and then turning eastward within the Straits, and examining the productions of Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli, the history of sheep is indistinct and unsatisfactory. The long-legged hairy sheep of Guinea is found in all these districts.

Major Hamilton Smith says, that the Morocco breed has long wool, the hair on the neck rather shorter and more undulating, and of a rufous brown; the ears small and horizontal, the horns small, but turned spirally outwards; the scrotum forming two separate sacks, the general colour white, with some marks of liver-colour.†

THE ASIATIC SHEEP.

Persian Sheep.—A breed of fat-rumped sheep prevails in Persia, a portrait of one of which will be seen in the frontispiece to the first volume: this is taken from the print in Youatt's work. It gives a fair representation of the hornless fat-rumped sheep of the East. The wool, although short and somewhat curled, is coarse and hairy. The level back and belly, the rounded carcase, and a light small leg, would induce the belief that from such animal our down and mountain sheep might have originally sprung.‡

The best wool is found in the province of Kerman. This is a very mountainous country, hot and dry in summer, and intensely cold in winter. The wool of the sheep is fine in quality, and that which grows at the roots of the hair of the goat is nearly as fine. The latter is spun into various fabrics, which almost vie with the beautiful shawls of Cashmere. The numuds, or fine felt carpets, for which Persia is so celebrated, are manufactured from the wool of the sheep either in Kerman or Khorasan.¶ These districts are far distant from each other, but the sheep in each of them is remarkable for the fine spirally-curled wool, of a grey or mixed black and white colour, which is obtained from it. The sheep are

* Smith's Voyages, p. 147. Youatt, p. 121. † Youatt, p. 122.

‡ Youatt, p. 23. ¶ Fraser's Travels on the Banks of the Caspian, p. 359.

below the ordinary size; the horns of the ram curved back and spiral at the tip, the ears pendulous, the colour dirty white, with a dingy wool beneath, and the tail not very broad. The fine furs are from the lambs slaughtered with their dams a few days before yeanning.*

At Kabooshan, in the mountains north of Khorasan, is a celebrated manufactory of sheep skin *pelisses* called *posteens*. The skins having been dressed with the wool on, are cut into narrow stripes, the coarser and inferior portions are rejected, and the others sewed together with the wool outside, and made into pelisses, which are almost universally worn in the winter. The best are formed from the skins of unweaned lambs, and are exceedingly fine and light; the price of these is enormous. The next in value are from the skins of selected sheep, not more than a year old; the coarser skins are used for the poorer people.†

The singular difference in the colour and brilliancy of the fleece of the Persian sheep, contributes to give greater variety and value to their garments. In some breeds of sheep the hair is only sufficiently long to admit of one curve, which lies close to the skin, and has a pleasing appearance: in others the fibre, although three inches long, is scarcely curved, except at the extremity; and some have long, grey, shining wool, falling in numberless ringlets, and appearing behind like strings of pearls.‡

Wild sheep frequent many of the mountains of Persia, and especially those in the neighbourhood of Nishapoori. Fraser thus describes one of them:—"While I was in the village, a ram of this description was killed by one of the hunters, and brought to me as a present. It was a noble animal,—just what it might be conceived the finest sort of domestic ram would be in a state of nature,—bold, portly, and very strong; thick like a lion about the neck and shoulders, and small in the loins; covered with short reddish hair, that curled closely about the neck and fore-quarters, and bearing an immense pair of crooked and twisted horns. Its flesh was remarkably well flavoured."§

* Animal Kingdom, vol. iv., p. 329. † Fraser's Journey from Khorasan, p. 573.

‡ Ogilvy, Asia, p. 38.

§ Fraser's Journey from Khorasan, p. 421. Youatt, p. 126.

Thibet Sheep.—The sheep of Thibet are numerous. They are chiefly a small variety of the fat-rumped Persian and Abyssinian, with black heads and legs. Some of them have a small portion of wool at the root of short hair, but in other breeds the wool is long, soft, and fine. Many of the costly India shawls are made of the long wool. The skins of the others are usually prepared with the wool on them, and form, like the skins of the Persian sheep, very comfortable winter clothing. The flesh of the Thibet sheep is said to be peculiarly well flavoured.*

The following interesting account was read before the Royal Asiatic Society:—

“ ON THE WHITE-HAIRED ANGORA GOAT, and on another
 “ species of Goat found in the same province, resembling
 “ the Thibet Shawl Goat. By LIEUT. ARTHUR
 “ CONOLLY, of the Bengal Cavalry, Cor. M. R. A. S.—
 “ (Read January, 1840.)

“ On a recent excursion through part of Asia Minor, being accompanied by a friend who spoke Turkish and Armenian perfectly, I noted some information that he collected, first regarding the long-famed silvery white-hair goat of Angora, and next about a goat resembling the shawl goat of Thibet, that exists throughout the country to which the first beautiful animal is peculiar. I was about to forward the said notes from Constantinople, with a box of specimens for the Society, when learning that the second species of goat alluded to abounded in other parts of Turkey, through or near which I should shortly travel, I put my memorandums aside in the hope of being able to extend them. I now beg to offer the result of the whole inquiry thus far, having for the convenience of illustration separated the details concerning each race of the animal under remark.

“ The goat of the first race, peculiar to the province of Angora and certain adjoining districts, is *invariably white*, and its coat is of one sort,—viz., a silky hair, which hangs in long curly locks. The general appearance of this animal is too well known to need mention here. The country within which

* Youatt, p. 127.

it is found, was thus described to us: 'Take Angora as a centre: then the Kizzil Ermak (or Halys.) Changeré, and from eight to ten hours' march (say thirty miles) beyond; Beybazar and the same distance beyond, to near Nalahan; Seyree Hissar; Yoorrook*, Tosiah, Costambool; Geredeh; and Cherkesh,'—from the whole of which tract the common bristly goat is excluded. Kinnier did not see a long-haired goat east of the Halys: we marked the disappearance of this animal on the westward, a little before Nalahan.† Our Angora informants agreed that the boundary is decided on all sides, and remarked, that if taken out of their natural districts, these goats deteriorate, in point of coat especially, till scarcely recognisable; adding, that it is difficult even to keep them alive elsewhere, particularly if they are taken to a low or damp soil, after the high and dry land to which they are accustomed.‡

"The greater part of the area described above consists of dry chalky hills, on which there are bushes rather than trees, and those chiefly of the dwarf oak, or else of valleys lying from 1,500 to 2,500|| feet above the level of the sea, which are quite bare of trees, and but scantily covered with grass. In this expanse of country there are spots which produce finer fleeces than others, *e. g.* Ayash, Beybazar, and Yoorrook. These are districts where the goats are mostly kept on hills,

* "A village named from Nomade families so called, who inhabit the mountains above it."

† "This probably is the point noted by Kinnier, as 'Wulle Khan,' for we met no person who knew a place of the latter name."

‡ "It is remarkable that wherever these goats exist, the cats and greyhounds have long silky hair also; the cats all over their bodies, the greyhounds chiefly on their ears and tails. Some of the natives would refer this peculiarity to their 'air and water,' but are perplexed to account for the non-participation of other animals who eat and drink the same fluids. A similar difficulty attends those who would attribute the peculiarity to diet; as sheep's food differs entirely from that of cats and dogs. Possibly hares and other furry animals in this region, have their coats altered also, more or less. Our native friends did not seem ever to have inquired. The sheep dogs are fine animals, with thick shaggy coats, but we did not think their hair unusually fine."

|| "This rough calculation is made from the measured height of Angora, by Dr. Ainsworth, (*i. e.* 2,769 feet,) and native statements about the variation of climate in the different provinces above named."

and the natives attribute a general superiority to mountain flocks, which have, first, a rarer atmosphere, secondly, more leaves, and a greater choice of herbs, for which, nevertheless, they are obliged to range widely, and so are kept in health, on which the quality of their coats mainly depends. The finest fleeces in the aforesaid country are said to come from the *Yoorrooks*, roving tribes who keep their flocks out day and night throughout the year, except when an unusual quantity of snow falls, so that not being enclosed and crowded together, they do not soil their coats by the heat and dirt of each other's bodies. The latter flocks too are more or less kept upon fresh food in winter, as they are then led down from the mountain heights to the tops of the lower hills, from which a little herbage can be gleaned, as the strong winds that prevail at this season drive the snow off them, while the plain flocks must be folded, and fed upon hay and branches.

“ The fleece of the white Angora goat is called ‘ *Tiftík*,’* the Turkish for goat's hair, in distinction to ‘ *Yún*,’ or ‘ *Yapak*,’ sheep's wool. After the goats have completed their first year, they are clipped annually, in April or May, and yield progressively, until they attain full growth, from 150 drachms to 1½ ‘oke’† of *Tiftík*. The female's hair is considered better than the male's, but both are mixed together for market, with the occasional exception of the *two-year-old she-goat's* fleece, which is kept with the picked hair of other white goats (of which, perhaps, five pounds may be chosen from a thousand), for the native manufacture of the most delicate articles, none being ever exported in any unwrought state. An oke of good common *Tiftík* of this year's shearing is now selling in the Angora bazar for nine piastres, or about 1s. 8½d., and the finest picked wool of the same growth is fetching fourteen piastres per oke.

“ A curious statement made to us at Angora was, that only the white goats which have horns, wear their fleece in the long curly locks that are so much admired; those which are not horned, having a comparatively close coat. We were at

* “ Originally a Persian word.

† “ A weight of 400 Turkish dirhems, or drachms, equal to about 2½lbs. English.”

Angora shortly after the shearing season, so could not observe the difference stated, which our informants seriously attributed to the circumstance of the animal's continually combing itself with its spirally twisted horns. A merchant, not of Angora, remarked, that probably there, as elsewhere, the finer the fleece naturally is, the more readily it curls, and he added, that good flock-masters keep their goats' hair as fine as possible, by carefully washing it, and combing out all impurities.

" Surplus he-goats, and barren females, are killed in the beginning of winter, when their flesh is parfried, and potted by the poorer classes as a store for the cold season. The skins are sold to curriers, who, after removing the hair by a preparation of lime, cure them for export to Constantinople, where they are dyed of different colours, and chiefly used for the manufacture of Turkish boots and slippers. The fleece is then five or six inches long, but as it is 'harsher' than that which is shorn in spring, and is thought to be more or less damaged by the currier's lime, it is sold at an inferior price, under the name of 'deri' or *skin* Tiftik, a term answering to what English staplers call 'dead wool.'

" The hair of the Tiftik goat is exported from its native districts raw, in yarn, and in the delicate stuffs for which Angora has long been famous. The last are now chiefly consumed in Turkey; a little yarn, and a large quantity of the raw material, goes to Europe. A few well-cured entire skins, with the curly fleece upon them, are used in Turkey as seats by religious doctors and chief derwishes, and others are exported to Europe, where they are fancied as rugs and saddle cloths. A fine skin of this sort costs one hundred piastres (or £1) at Angora, and one hundred and fifty at Constantinople.

" When the Tiftik fleeces have been shorn in spring, women separate the clean hair from the dirty, and the latter only is washed, after which the whole is mixed together and sent to market. That which is not exported raw, is bought by the women of the labouring families, who, after pulling portions loose with their fingers, pass them successively through a large and fine-teethed iron comb, and spin all that they thus card into skeins of yarn, called '*ipkâ*,' (the common Turkish

word for all thread,) of which six qualities are made. An oke of Nos. 1 to 3, now fetches in the Angora bazar from twenty-four to twenty-five piastres, and the like weight of Nos. 3 to 6, from thirty-eight to forty piastres. Threads of the first three numbers have been usually sent to France, Holland, and Germany; those of the last three qualities to England.

“The women of Angora moisten their carded goats’ hair with much spittle before they draw it from the distaff, and they assert that the quality of the thread much depends upon this; nay more, that in the *melon* season their yarn is incomparably better, as eating this fruit imparts a mucilaginous quality to the saliva. ‘Divide (said they) a quantity of Tiftík into two parts; let the same person spin one-half in winter and the other in the melon season, and you will plainly see an important difference.’ In winter (they added) the thread cannot be spun so fine as in summer, since, owing to the state of the atmosphere in the cold season, it becomes more harsh (crisp).

“Before this yarn is used by the weaver, it is well saturated with a glutinous liquor called ‘*Chirish*.’ This is made from a root like a radish,* which comes to Angora from the neighbourhood of Konia. It is dried and pounded, mixed with water, and well shaken in a bag. Then the liquor is strained off, and small skeins are steeped in it, while large hanks are watered by the mouth when they have been spread out, according to the following process, which I may describe as witnessed by us at Angora.

“ ‘We found the workmen before sun-rise on a level space by the banks of the Angora stream. Upon a centre and two end cross-trees, was rather loosely stretched a double web of yarn, 70 feet by 7, which was kept extended and separate by sliding cross-sticks. Two men walked up and down the sides of this frame at the same time, nearly opposite to each other, holding bowls of Chirish liquor made into a thin yellow

* “A medical friend describes it as a plant of the *Asphodoly* family, which grows on all the high table lands of Armenia. Shoemakers are said to use the dried flour as ‘size’ where the plant is common; but I found a different article in use at all the shoemakers’ bazars in Constantinople.”

mucilage: of this they continually squirted, or rather blew out, mouthfuls in alternate showers,* all over the web, while others followed them to press the threads together for a moment, and then to change their position relative to each other, by means of the sliding cross bars mentioned, so that all might be equally moistened, as well as to re-bind any threads that had given from the tension. The Chirish liquor had a sweetish and not unpleasant taste, but the squirters complained that it totally destroyed their teeth, and showed bare gums in proof. They distributed their jets with singular dexterity, in broad casts of the minutest drops, and expressed doubts whether, considering the clammy nature of the liquor used, any watering pot could be made to do their work as well, and save them from its inconvenient effects.'

"This operation is repeated several times;† the work is always commenced in the cool of the morning, so that it may be completed ere the heat of the sun can operate to dry the thread quickly. A long web like the one described, having been sufficiently moistened, its threads are divided into breadths of the sizes ordered; the weaver sends his comb that one end of a portion may be fitted into it, and carries the rest away rolled up on a stick, to be drawn out as his work advances.

"The women of Angora knit gloves and socks with the Tiftik yarn, working them both furry and plain, and making some socks of the latter sort so fine as to cost one hundred piastres the pair. The surplus of their yarn they sell to native weavers of stuffs. The weaver seeks threads of equal thickness, and takes the skeins that he matches back to the women spinners, who reel them into one thread, assisting this operation with Chirish mucilage. The connected thread being returned to the weaver in large hanks, he, with a hand wheel, winds off small portions through a pan of water on to bits of reed cut to fit his shuttle.

"The cloths woven from Tiftik at Angora, are of two

* "Tobacco for the Turkish pipe is damped by a similar process."

† "Moorcroft shows that the preparers of goats' wool and yarn for the Kashmere shawl manufacture, take pains to impart mucilage to each; first kneading the cleaned wool with damp rice flour, and afterwards dipping the yarn into thick boiled rice water."

kinds, 'Shalh' and 'Sôf,' or twilled and plain cloth, and the manufacture of these is confined to men. The weaver sits with nearly half of his body in a small pit, at the bottom of which he works two or four treadles with his feet, according as he wishes to make plain or twilled cloth. Part of this loom is fixed to the floor before him, and the rest is suspended nearly over it from the ceiling. He contracts to work a piece of thirty *Piks*, or rather more than twenty-one yards, for a sum which varies according to the texture required, from fifteen up to one hundred piastres, and by working steadily he may finish a piece of this regular measure in six days.

"These stuffs are dyed at Angora. Indigo and cochineal, with tartar, nitric and sulphuric acids, were mentioned as articles imported from Constantinople and Smyrna. Yellow berry grows to perfection in the neighbourhood, and some spoke of a grass yielding the same colour as indigenous to the soil. Coffee colour, a favourite among the Turks, they obtain by mixing cochineal with the dry rind of the fresh walnut. They remarked that cloth made of dyed thread keeps its colour till it falls to pieces, while that which is dyed in pieces, fades with comparative quickness.

"Angora has always been the chief, if not the only town in which Tiftik has been manufactured into cloth; the other towns of the area described sending their hair to its looms.* Now not even thread is spun at the latter places, their goats' hair being exported in a raw state, and Angora itself has, from the latter cause, quite declined, there being 'perhaps fifty' looms where there were one thousand two hundred in the best days of this provincial capital, and not more than from one thousand to fifteen hundred pieces of stuff sent out, instead of twenty thousand that used to be required before the Greek revolution. The citizens take the last event as a point from which to date their decline, remarking, that before that period, there was a prohibition against the export of Tiftik from Turkey, except when wrought, or in the form of iplik, or homespun thread, so that the interests of the native

* "A near village named Stenzes, at which fine Sôf is made, was mentioned to us as the only other place at which looms were known to exist, and these did not number a dozen."

spinners and weavers were protected against the machinery of Europe. Up to that time, however, it would seem that there was little demand for the raw material in Europe. Tournefort, indeed, in 1701, speaks of this hair being used in England for *wigs*, and particularly states that it was required un-spun. According to the information that was kindly procured for me by an English merchant at Constantinople, when some bales of white Angora goats' hair were shipped thence to England, in 1820, the article was so little appreciated, that it brought only 10d. per lb.; since that period the English demand for the raw hair has been annually increasing, and the ordinary price for many years has been 18d. per lb., though, from unusual causes, it has fluctuated from 27d. to 14d. Permission is now freely given by the Turkish Government to export raw Tiftik; and as European manufacturers find it more convenient to make their own thread by machinery, the demand for Angora hand-spun yarn has almost ceased, and its value in Turkey has fallen one half. The following list of exports from Constantinople, for the last three years, will show how one article has superseded the other, and what is the present state of the trade:—

	Mohair Yarn.	Tiftik.
1836	Bales 538	3841
1837*	do. 8	2261
1838 ...	do. 21	5523

"No yarn has been, and probably none will be, exported this year. 2,679 bales of Tiftik have been already shipped, and it may be expected that fully 3,000 more will be exported before the end of the season, from the supply of this year's produce, which is just arriving from the interior.† The bales that are brought on horses weigh sixty okes, those that come on camels one hundred ditto; but the proportion of the latter is small, and seventy okes may be taken as the average weight.

"My latter informant thought that from 1,000 to 1,500 bales might be shipped annually for England at Smyrna.

"The native demand for Shalli and Sôf is said to have decreased since the adoption of a European style of dress by the Turkish grandees, who used to wear full summer robes

* "Year of commercial distress, therefore exports much diminished."

† "June, 1839."

of these stuffs; but though this change of costume has, doubtless, had some effect upon the Angora manufactures, they have probably been chiefly injured by the introduction of cheap French and English merinos into the Turkish bazars. Owing to these causes, and to the recent large European demand for raw hair, the value of Angora shawl stuffs has gone down so quickly, and so completely, as to entail great loss upon the wholesale and retail merchants who dealt in them,* and little short of ruin upon the weavers, hand-spinners, dyers, and others who were connected with the manufacture at Angora itself.† But though the city has thus suffered, the province must gain largely by the change, if the Sultan can be made sufficiently aware of his own interest to treat it fairly.

“ I will now speak of the second race. This goat has an unchanging outer covering of long bristle, between the roots of which comes in winter an under-coat of downy wool, that is naturally thrown off in spring. A remarkably fine breed of this species exists throughout the area to which the Angora white-hair goat is limited, but similar breeds prevail all over the highlands of Turkish and Persian Armenia and Kurdistan, in the neighbourhood of Kerman, and probably in other elevated parts of Persia. Moorcroft, in speaking of the shawl wool which is used in *Kashmere*, says, ‘it was formerly supplied almost entirely by the western provinces of Lassa and by Ladakh; but of late, considerable quantities have been procured from the neighbourhood of Yarkand, from Khoten, and the families of the great Kerghiz Horde;’ and he elsewhere remarks, that although some districts of those countries produce finer fleeces than others, ‘the breed is the same in Ladakh as in Lassa, Great Thibet, and Chinese Toorkistan.’ I quote these remarks because I have

* “Formerly there were thirty-six merchants in Constantinople who traded exclusively in Angora stuffs and Mohair yarn; now there are but six, and the Angora ‘Khan’ is nearly deserted.”

† “Tournefort, in 1701, rated the population of Angora at about 45,000 inhabitants. Kennier, in 1817, estimated it at 20,000. Our accounts give now but a total of 13,000, of whom many hundreds would instantly emigrate if permitted. We saw but twelve looms at work, because the Sultan had ordered a levy of 150 Christians as pioneers to his army, and all able-bodied weavers were hiding themselves.”

little doubt, from Moorcroft's description of the wool brought from the just named different countries to Kashmere, and from actual comparison of London samples, marked 'Cashmere wool,' with specimens collected in Asia Minor and Armenia, that the double-coated goats which are pastured on the table lands of Thibet, and those which range the shores of the Euxine, are but varieties of the same species.

"As far as my recollection goes, the double-coated breed that enjoys the favoured districts of the white Angora hair-goat, is of larger size than any in the more southern Turkish provinces that I passed through; and I should say that its wool is the finest, but I had not sufficient means of comparison to give a positive opinion on the latter point; and leaving others to investigate at leisure, for the benefit of natural history and commerce, the circumstances which favour the production of a valuable article that seems to be easily procurable from many countries, I proceed to communicate the few notes regarding it, which my friend and myself were able to make during short and hurried journeys."

"The double-coated race of goat in the Turkish and Persian districts, which have been specified above, is coloured black, brown, golden and light dun, gray, and piebald. The colours of the two coats do not necessarily correspond, black bristle commonly overlies brown wool, and other double coats which are of the same general tint, differ more or less from each other in depth of shade. Goats of this breed in Angora are occasionally mixed with the white-hair goat first described, either by the shepherd's inattention, or when a remarkable flock leader is desired. In such cases, that influence, of which we read in the Bible history of Jacob, and in the *Georgics* of Virgil, always predominates strongly; the produce, we were told, having, invariably, a *double coat* of some colour, commonly of piebald. White goats, with both bristle and under wool, are now and then seen in Angora,

* "You cannot make satisfactory inquiries in these countries without time to put repeated questions. A Constantinople merchant told me, on the authority of his brother-in-law, that the best Angora 'dehrem' was exported to *India* for the shawl manufacture in *Kashmere*. The brother-in-law being appealed to, said that he had only expressed wonder that it was not so exported, and it came out that he conceived Hindostan to lie somewhere in the vicinity of England."

but this is said by the natives to be almost always, when, after two or three partial crossings, the issue of a white-hair, and of a coloured double-coated goat, is being brought round to the first race.* At most places out of Asia Minor, the people said that white was a rare colour for shawl wool. At Mosul, however, the only sample that I could obtain from the bazar was white, hair and bristles mixed, and I was assured that it was the colour most commonly brought there. This could hardly have resulted from a cross with the Angora hair goat.

“The outer coat is called ‘Küll’ or ‘Kill,’ the general Turkish word for bristle, and the under coat is called ‘*dehrem*,’ at *Angora*, a term which, according to our informants there, is also applied to the soft down with which nature clothes the camel in winter. In Meninsky’s lexicon, there is a word signifying the same thing, but spelt ‘*Derhem*,’ whereas, it was remarkable that the Armenian merchants at Angora pronounced the first syllable with a strong aspirate. I mention this because the word appears to be little known in any shape beyond Angora; indeed, only persons in that province who affect correctness, make a point of using it, the common people giving the general name of *Tiftík* to their goat flocks of cloth species, which, except at breeding seasons, are kept together, and talking of *ak* and *kara* (white and black) *Tiftík*. Beyond those provinces of Asia Minor to which the white Angora hair-goat is peculiar, the Turkish as well as the Persian shepherds apply the term *Tiftík* to the double-coated goat; and under this name, I imagine, has been sold all the shawl wool that has hitherto been exported to Europe through Constantinople and Smyrna, or by any port on the coast of Syria.† I was assured by merchants in the Angora ‘Khan’ at Constantinople, who gave me the specimens of ‘*deri dehrem*,’ or ‘*skin wool*,’ that no Angora goat’s wool of this second sort had, until the present year, been exported to Europe through the capital. They took the parcels, they

* “We noticed after shearing time, that all the flocks we saw were led by piebald goats that had not been clipped like the rest; but our information regarding the first mixture and subsequent crossing of these two breeds, was imperfect.”

† “In the interior of Persia this sort of wool is called ‘*Koark*.’ ”

said, from a few bales for the first time invoiced by them, and sold to an English merchant, adding that *Smyrna* had hitherto monopolized the export trade of all their 'dehrem' that was not consumed at home, for their women use it also to a considerable extent in knitting warm socks and gloves, that are esteemed all over Turkey.*

"In other 'khans' at Constantinople, used by Turkish and Persian merchants, I found men packing, for Europe, bales of goats' 'skin wool,' that was similar in kind, but inferior in quality, and so full of lime, that much dust was raised when any quantity of it was stirred. This, it was said, came from Kurdistan, according to long custom. The nomade tribes who possess these double-coated goats, sell many of them when they come down from the mountains, in the most convenient villages and towns to which certain wool traders make circuits. The men of *Kaiserea* appear to be great collectors of shawl wool, and I have heard of their going as far East as Diarbekir for it. The flesh of these animals, like that of the Angora hair-goats, is everywhere sold as winter provision for poor people, and their skins are likewise transferred to curriers, who prepare them for Morocco leather. The bristles are for the most part first removed, by a weak solution of lime, rubbed on the inside of the skin, which loosens them without bringing away the under down, and this, more or less mixed with the finer bristles that remain, is next taken off by a stronger solution of the same substance. The separate bristle, like that of the common goat all over Turkey, is made into ropes and girths, and into hair cloth, which is used for sacking and the packing of merchandise. The wool, mixed as it is with bristles, is either sold to the travelling merchants above mentioned, or used in the country for the manufacture of felt caps, tent coverings, and horse clothing.

"When the warmth of spring causes the under coat to leave the skin, it works gradually off towards the end of the bristles, and on which it hangs in small lumps. We arrived

* "I did not ascertain whether any are exported to Europe. Probably not, except as occasional presents, as their price would not enable them to compete with our lamb's wool fabrics of similar kind."

too late at Angora to see there any wool in this state, but I forwarded some specimens from Erzroom, which I cut from the back of a double-coated goat that had several remaining on its back in that elevated valley, as late as August. The Kurdish shepherds, I was told, do not think it worth while to collect these lumps of down when they clip their goats in spring for the bristle. At Angora, where this sort of wool is put to a separate and profitable use, one would imagine that there could hardly be the same indifference, yet the "dehrem" gloves and socks knitted there have all some bristle in them, and I cannot say whether this results from the use of dead wool obtained from curriers, or from a difficulty in freeing the spring coat from the bristles with which it is closely associated. Moorcroft thus describes the way in which the Thibetan shawl wool is obtained in spring:—'The goat's bristle having been cut short with a knife, in the direction of its growth, or from the head towards the tail, a rude comb, made of seven willow pegs, is passed in the reversed direction, which brings away the finer wool almost unmixed with the coarse hair or bristle.' Though not positive, I do not think that the Angora shepherds use similar means to collect their spring shawl wool. It seems certain that the other flockmasters who furnish the article, obtain it only from the skin of the dead goat in the beginning of winter, when the coat cannot have attained full growth, and when it probably becomes deteriorated for manufacturing purposes, by the quantity of lime that is mixed with it, the currier principally regarding the skin, and carelessly removing the bristle and down from it as something that will help to make up the price that he has paid the butcher. Thus it may be doubted whether European manufacturers have yet known the article in its best state. From the little that I have been able to learn about it, I am induced to think that all the shawl wool hitherto exported from Turkey to Europe, has been used for felting purposes. My idea is, that it will become a valuable commodity to English imitation Kashmere shawl manufacturers, if it can be imported at a moderate price, and in a clean state. It is short in staple as now generally obtained, and probably is so at its fullest growth; but it is described at

Angora as 'spinning well,'* and the socks which the women there knit from the thread they make of it, seem to combine in a great degree the qualities which are so much desired in shawls, viz., lightness, softness, and warmth. I find among my notes a memorandum that the full grown *Angora* double-coated goat, yields fifty or sixty drachms of wool, but I do not know who gave the information, as we were hurried away from Angora in the midst of our inquiries regarding 'dehrem.' An English friend at Erzroom, whose attention had been directed to the shawl wool of Armenia, calculated, after native report, that 120 goat skins in that country yield nine okes of rough wool: when the bristle has been tolerably picked from this, there remain six okes, which again will not give more than three okes, when it has been carefully picked and carded. Picking included, an oke of the last would cost eighteen piastres, or four shillings; add two shillings more for freight, &c., and the wool might be delivered in London at six shillings per oke, or two shillings and twopence per pound.† By degrees, the different flock masters may be induced to pick their wool, so that it can be exported without further delay, and Englishmen in Turkey, interested in the trade, may not only persuade the shepherds within their reach to collect their spring down by the Thibetan process, but to improve their breeds by crossing. Mr. Southey, in a letter that he was good enough to send me with some samples of Indian and other wools, mentioned that a French gentleman of Versailles crossed the Angora hair-goat with white Kashmere, and that the wool of crosses three, four, and five, was worth double the price of grey Kashmere, or four shillings a pound. It would be easy to import the double-coated as well as the hair-goat from Turkey, into European countries, in which the elevation of the land and the pasture most resembles that of Asia Minor or Armenia; we might try districts in our own Welsh or Scotch highlands, and, if after the most judicious crossings, it should prove impracticable to acclimate

* "It would be easy, by writing to some resident in Constantinople, to get a measured quantity of the best rough 'dehrem' cleaned as perfectly as possible at Angora, by hand-picking, fine spun, and then woven into a piece of shawl stuff in one of the looms used for the hair Shalli, or Sôf"

† "The refuse might sell for something at the picking place."

a race at home, our experiments could hardly fail to determine how the best hair and wool can be grown in Asia. Now that the Indus has been opened, English manufacturers may look for an additional supply of shawl wool from the countries which have hitherto been obliged to send their produce by fixed land routes to Kashmere, and we might, perhaps,* with success import the best Thibetan breeds into many parts of the Himalayan mountains that are subject to British control.”

“ KASCHMIR UND DAS REICH DER SIEK VON CARL. FRIE-
“ HERRN VON HUGEL.—*Stutgard.* 1837.
(*Hugel’s Travels in Cashmere.—Foreign Quarterly Review.*
Oct. 1841.)

“ The manufacture of shawls, what with the diminution in the wealth and numbers of the merchants, the decreased demand, and the rival manufactories of Ludeanah, Simla, Delhi, and elsewhere, is sadly fallen off. Still, from some undiscovered cause, those made in Cashmere excel all others both in purity of colour and style of execution. The first of these has been explained, and perhaps with truth, by the superiority of the water in Cashmere. Thirteen thousand weavers perished of the cholera, and according to our author but 2000 are now employed. The number of shawls annually constructed is about 3000, and 1200 pieces of striped cloth; for various uses. Baron Hügel took considerable pains to ascertain the exact relation of the price of a shawl to the expense incurred in making it, and he gives the following result :—

	Hary Singhi Rupees.
Wages of 24 persons for a pair of superfine shawls, { requiring twelve months to make..... }	800
Paschmina and dyer... ..	300
Outlay for the establishment	200
Stamp tax to Government	700
Total.....	2000
Equal to £116 13s. sterling.	

“ The usual price demanded for such a pair of shawls is 3000 rupees, or 1000 more than the cost of making. They

* “ The heavy periodical rains on the southern side of the great Himalayan Chain, might injuriously affect animals accustomed to a dry climate.”

may be purchased, however, at a lower price. Those taking twelve months are now seldom made, and never unless ordered. We may consider, therefore, that those as the very best in the European market take about six months to complete, and the cost of making them to the Daschlawalla is pretty nearly as follows:—

	Rapees.
Wages of workmen for six months	400
Paschmina and dyer	300
Outlay of establishment	100
Tax (depending on the work of the shawl) ...	250
Total	1050—£61 5s.

“ It is only during the last century that the article has become so expensive: in Bernier's time, the highest price for a shawl was fifty rupees, and in the latter quarter of the last century, 150 rupees. The wool is combed from the back of the shawl goat, and not shorn.

“ The business of buying shawls, (our word is a corruption of the Cashmerian word *Duschala*,) is a trial too great for European patience, so that the only method is to employ a plenipotentiary.

“ The settling of the bargain, says Baron Hügel, mostly took place after a curious fashion. The buyer and seller sit together on the ground, and present each other the right hand under a large piece of cloth. They then commence looking at each other, and the demand and offers are made without uttering a syllable, by means of sundry pressures of the hand; this mummary lasts not unfrequently the whole day; sometimes several pass before the tedious negotiation is terminated.”

The Wool of the Lama of Thibet.—A gentleman of the name of Woolaston, who has resided for some years among the mountains of Thibet, has discovered a species of the lama, the colour of which is perfectly black, and its hair as soft as silk. The latter, he says, is capable of being woven into shawls, and other cloths of a similar description, with much advantage. As a staple commodity, he remarks that it does not possess the properties of wool, it being much more fine than is the latter material; but it would admirably well

suit the fine shawl trade, as it is carried on in the manufactories of Glasgow and Paisley.

The hairs run upon an average twelve inches in length, and are of a jet black colour, so that they do not require dyeing to entertain a darker shade. A large quantity of twist, which has been turned in the hills, has been bought up by the French merchants on speculation, and sent to France, where it has realised as much as from 12s. 6d. to 14s. per lb., while the raw unspun material has met a ready sale at 2s. 6d. to 3s. per lb. The Indian shawls, which have ever been held in high estimation, are manufactured from the fine soft hairs which form the under-coat of the Cashmere hill goat; and the above animal, the “Alpaca,” (for such is the name under which it is known by the natives,) affords a hair equally as soft and long as that which is furnished by the former creature. The black cashmere shawls have always fetched higher prices than any others of a similar description in the market; and it is not at all improbable, but that the beautiful silky hair of the “Alpaca” is used largely by the Cashmere weavers in their manufacture of the latter very valuable as well as profitable article of commerce.

East India Sheep.—Descending from Thibet towards the south, the East India possessions begin; and, looking to the vast range of sheep pasturage, the immense flocks of sheep, and the recent but rapidly increasing importation of wool from the East Indies, the compiler has been most anxious to obtain the best and most authentic information. In this he has been most kindly assisted by a friend who resided at the Himalaya Mountains, and by whose mediation he has been referred to authorities which have enabled him to give the following account. He must beg leave here to acknowledge his great obligation to the Right Honourable Sir Alexander Johnstone, and the Committee of the Royal Asiatic Society of Literature, to Major Kennedy, late Political Agent in the North West Hills of British India, and to G. W. Traill, Esq., for their communications; to Dr. Royle, for permission to extract from his valuable and able “Essay on the Productive Resources of India,” and for his communication; and to his very respected friend, Thomas Southey, Esq., who

has given much attention to the wool of India, and whose intelligent and interesting letter will close this article.

Dr. Royle, in his Essay,* after his very valuable essays respecting the culture of pimento, nutmegs, sugar, indigo, silk, and other productions of the East, states as respects sheep,—

“ Considering the tropical nature of many of the substances of which we have treated, and that wool of a good quality is usually thought to be a produce only of cold countries, it may startle many but partially acquainted with India to hear of wool as a product of that country. Yet, from the oldest records which we possess, we find the tending of sheep, and the preparation of clothing from their wool, one of the earliest occupations of mankind in the warm and dry regions of the East. The open plains of these countries, from their great absorption of heat at one season, in summer become scorched up; but from its free radiation at another, are cooled to an almost equal degree in winter. The northern plains of India are in a great measure similarly situated with respect to climate, though under the influence of the tropical rains at one season of the year. But in the winter, the cold is sufficient to require their inhabitants to be clothed in the fleeces of their sheep, or in coats padded with cotton.

“ As in the culture of silk, so in considering the probability of the production of wool, we have to consider the best breeds of the animal suited to the climate in which they are placed, as well as the pastures upon which they are to feed.

“ The wide-spread territories and diversified climates of the British territories in India, can in no case be more evident than in the different districts suited to or unfit for the production of wool. The coasts of the Peninsula, and the plains of Bengal, may be unsuited to the support of such sheep as will be valued for their fleece alone, but nowhere is the mutton finer than that of the grain-fed sheep of the plains of India.

“ The table-lands of the Peninsula, however, commencing with the Neelgheries, and proceeding along Mysore to the Deccan, Candeish, and Guzerat, present large tracts of

* Essay on the Productive Resources of India, by J. F. Royle, M.D., F.R.S., L.S. and G.S., Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics, King's College, London. Published by W. H. Allen and Co., Leadenhall Street.

country affording a favourable climate, and abundant pastures for numerous flocks of sheep. If from thence we proceed in a north-east direction, passing Marwar, Malwa, Rajpootana, to the district of Hurriana, and the province of Delhi, we shall see supported in the natural pastures of the country immense herds of cattle and numerous flocks of sheep; the latter affording wool employed by the natives for making blankets (kumlees) of different degrees of fineness, which form a considerable article of the commerce of these provinces.

“Again, the Himalaya Mountains, on their southern face, present a European-like climate, remarkable, however, for being influenced by the periodical rains. The temperature varies according to the elevation; but they afford everywhere rich pastures, and support a fine breed of sheep, of which the wool is employed by the mountaineers to form their clothing. The northern face of these mountains is as remarkable for its dryness, as the southern is for its moisture; the cold is excessive, and the animals which are pastured there are covered with shaggy hair, or with long wool, and a fine down. It is here that the shawl-wool goat finds its most congenial climate.”*

Having thus given the description of the climates and pastures, as stated by Dr. Royle, we will proceed to the account of the sheep.

The sheep of India were mentioned by very early writers. Marco Polo, who wrote his travels in the thirteenth century, said that in Kamarda, he “found sheep which were equal to an ass in size, with long and thick tails, weighing thirty pounds, and whose fat was excellent to eat.” This is very similar to the breed of sheep in the time of Moses.† He also says, that, in the province of Balashan, “The mountains afford pasture for an innumerable quantity of sheep, which ramble about in flocks of four, five, and six hundred, all wild, and although many are taken and killed, there does not seem to be any diminution.

“*Volkan*.—In the plains there are wild animals in great numbers, particularly sheep of large size, having horns three, four, and seven palms in length.‡ Of these the shepherds

* Dr. Royle's Essay, p. 139, and following.

† Vide vol. 1, page 22, and frontispiece in vol. 1.

‡ A palm is ten inches.

make ladles and vessels for holding the victuals, and of the same materials they construct fences for inclosing the cattle, and securing them in yards from the wolves, with which the country is infested, and which likewise destroy many of the wild sheep and goats."

A very interesting letter respecting the Pùrek sheep of Ladakh, written by William Moorcroft, Esq., dated from Leh, the capital of Sarrak, April 25, 1822, to John Fleming, Esq., is inserted in the Proceedings of the Royal Asiatic Society of Literature, from which the following is extracted:—

"A cursory view of the striking in the tails of the sheep suggests the notion, that this might furnish a character distinguishing the race of the animal more correctly than those that have been set up for this purpose; and nature has adopted varieties in the proportions of this part, of which some both surprise and perplex the mind, in order to assign the cause of the difference. But the variation in the sheep is not more extraordinary than that existing in the mouse genus, some varieties of which are here furnished with tails of a length which would seem preposterous and inconvenient, while others are chiefly destitute of that appendage.

"The novelties which have already met the view of natural history, are so great as to invite the introduction of detail that would swell a letter to a volume, and divert me from its practical object. A breed of sheep of Ladakh, when at full growth, has scarcely acquired the size of a South Down lamb of five or six months old, yet in fineness and weight of the fleece, and in the flavour of its mutton, added to its peculiarity of feeding and constitution, yields not in merit to any race hitherto discovered. Perhaps the dog of the British cottager is not so completely domesticated as is the Pùrek sheep of this country. In the night it finds shelter in the walled yards, or under the roof of its master, and frequently in the day time picks up its food on the surface of a granite rock, where the eye of the cursory inquirer can scarcely discover a speck of vegetation, though closer investigation shows stunted tufts of wormwood, hyssop, buglass, and here and there a few blades of dwarfed grass. But the indefatigable industry of this animal detects and appropriates substances so minute and uninviting, as would be neglected by ordinary

sheep, or those of larger breeds, even in this country. The Pürek sheep, if permitted, thrusts its head into the cooking pot, picks up crumbs, is eager to drink the remains of a cup of salted and buttered tea or broth. It gives two lambs in the twelve months, and is twice shorn within the period. The clip may afford safely three pounds on the aggregate average, and the first yield is used for tolerably good shawls."

This breed of small sheep is again mentioned by Dr. Royle:—

"Mr. Moorcroft, in his journeys to Thibet, had also in view the improvement of the breed of sheep in India, as, in his letter respecting the Prangos hay-plant from near Droz, he writes, 'I have purchased and made arrangements for the keep of upwards of a hundred head of a race of sheep, the smallest perhaps known, but which in fineness of fleece may vie with the merino, under the advantages of a much hardier constitution and of a better carcase.'"^{*}

Unhappily that very intelligent and enterprising traveller did not live to carry out plans which might have been advantageous to himself, and most beneficial both to India and to his native country. The following is extracted from a letter with which the compiler has been favoured, from G. W. Traill, Esq.:—

"I can bear testimony to the great extent and peculiar excellence of the sheep pastures in the mountain ranges at the base of the Himalayan mountains. A knowledge of these resources, acquired in his transit through a portion of this tract, led Mr. Moorcroft to the determination of settling in Kumaon as a sheep farmer. His views were communicated to me in his journey through Thibet; and, subsequent to quitting Bokhara, a short time before his death, he wrote to request my aid in procuring for him a tract of sheep pasture, in the neighbourhood of Josheemuth, in the mountain district of Kumaon. He proposed introducing the small breed of sheep which he had met with at Ladakh, and with the remarkable fineness of whose fleece he had been so much struck. He stated his conviction that in the successful issue of this project, he should prove the humble instrument of benefit both to India and to the mother-country."

* Royle's Essay, p. 150.

The compiler has been also favoured with the following interesting letter from Major Kennedy respecting the sheep of India:—

“ There are three descriptions of sheep in the north-west provinces of our territory; one, the common sheep of the plains of India, with a coarse fleece, and from which all the kumlees or coarse blankets are manufactured. One of these blankets, ten feet by five feet, sells for about 3s. This sheep does not thrive on the hills.

“ The second description of sheep is that known in the mountains by the name of Karoo, from which a very considerable profit is made from the wool, and the mountaineers supply all the northern provinces with the finer woollen cloths and blankets worn by the better orders of people. There are immense flocks of these sheep reared,—colour almost invariably white,—the meat coarse and fat. Unless the animal is fat, the wool is not worth the cutting. They are fed on grass in the spring, summer, and autumn, and in the winter on the leaves of trees,—oak, and especially the zoot, or wild mulberry, the best pasturage (if I may so call it) in the world for sheep and milch cows, and would be well worth the trial in England and New South Wales.

“ The next species is the Bhyangeé, found in the Himalaya, on the Tartar side, and this animal is most valuable, not only from its magnificent fleece, but for carriage of almost all the trade carried on through these mountains, where no other animal can climb up save the goat, and, in places, the yäk. The weight carried by these beautiful sheep may be taken at an average of 9 lbs., and the goods carried, viz., silk, salt, tobacco, opium, (the finest in the world,) drugs, tea, and wax, are put into small bags, and laid on the back of the animal. The wool is most valuable in length, softness, and luxuriance; the meat of the sheep is excellent, and like venison. The animal stands higher than the South Down, and is perfect in its shape. A great trade is carried on in this wool throughout the Himalaya, and into Tartary, Cashmere, &c. I tried to introduce the breed at Simla, (on the Indian side of the mount,) but failed in at least a dozen attempts; the damp killed them, as did the heat of the plains of India. I tried to bring them to England.

“ In 1823–1824, the Government of India sent me some merino sheep to mix the breed in the Himalaya. I kept the stock for several years, but the experiment failed, first because the merinos were old, and had been ruined in constitution by long sojourn on the plains of India at Poosah, Hansi, and Hopper; they were a failure at all those places, and when they came to me they were more dead than alive; the rams were useless. I got a few of their stock, and distributed them amongst the breeders on the mountains; but they did not please, chiefly because they were an innovation and new, and for some years tried the experiment and failed. I tried repeatedly the rearing of the Cashmere goat (improperly so called), first at Simla, and the damp killed my flock; I got no wools from them; but the finest flocks of those lovely animals I found on the Tartar side of the mountain in lat. $32\frac{1}{2}$ –33, and $78\frac{1}{2}$ to 80 east long. It is hardly possible to buy the pure goat’s wool, it is so easily mixed with the wool of dogs, yäks, and other animals.”

The compiler is greatly indebted to Mr. Traill for the following communication:—

“ The district under my charge was Kumaoa, a mountain tract on the southern face of the Himalaya, where I resided for a great number of years. The sheep bred in that tract are wholly similar to the variety mentioned by Major Kennedy as the Kharoo. The sheep which produces the Bhyangeé wool are natives of Thibet, or the tract of table land lying immediately north of the Himalaya range. They are animals of great size, stand much higher, and are longer in the carcase than any breed of sheep which I have ever fallen in with; white is the prevailing colour, but black, gray, and tawny-coloured sheep are not uncommon. Individuals with three or more horns are far from rare. The sheep of Thibet and of the southern Himalayan ranges have a short tail like a goat, a characteristic common to the original race of sheep in Northern Europe. *Fat-tailed* sheep are not bred in Thibet; such an unwieldy appendage disqualifies the bearer from travelling long distances under burthens, and it is to this object that the flocks of Thibet, both sheep and goats, are devoted.

“ The Doomba, or fat-tailed sheep of Cabool and Central

Asia, differs materially in shape and appearance from the Barbary, or African fat-tailed sheep. In the first-named variety, the tail lies broad and flat on the thighs of the animal, and reaches no lower than the knees; in the other variety (the Barbary), the tail is more round and pendant, reaching nearly to the ground." [Both are in the frontispiece to the first volume.]

Two species of wild sheep are found in the Himalaya mountains, of which a description has been given by Bryan H. Hodgson, Esq., resident at the Court of Nepal, and from which the following is extracted in his own words:—

"ON THE TWO WILD SPECIES OF SHEEP INHABITING
"THE HIMALAYAN REGIONS, with some Brief Remarks
"on the Craniological Character of *Ovis* and its Allies.
"By B. H. HODGSON, Esq., Resident at the Court of
"Nepal."

"I hope to place beyond further question the existence of two entirely distinct, new, and peculiar breeds of sheep, in a state of nature, in the Himalaya; where, indeed, from the unparalleled elevation and extent of the mountains, it need be no rational matter of surprise that they exist.

"*Ovis Ammonoides*, Nol.—Large wild sheep, with massive strictly trigonal sub-compressed horns, deeper than broad at the base, presenting a flat surface vertically to the front, and cultrated edge beneath, inserted not in contact on the crest of the frontals, remote from the orbit, directed backwards and outwards, with a bold circular sweep; the flattened points being again subrecurved outwards, and the whole surface covered with numerous heavy complete wrinkles; the forehead flat and broad, the nose scarcely arched, and much attenuated to a fine small muzzle; the ears short, pointed, and striated; the tail short and deer-like, and the limbs fine and elevated; the vesture composed of close, thick, more or less porrect, brittle piles of medial uniform length, concealing a scanty fleece; no beard nor mane; general colour, dull slaty blue, paled on the surface, and more or less tinted with rufous; dorsal ridge, dark and embrowned; lips, chin, belly, and inside of limbs near it, dull hoary; limbs externally below the central flexures, rufescent hoary; snout, to base of tail,

seventy to seventy-two inches; mean height, forty-two; head straight to crest of frontals, fourteen; tail, with the hair, eight; ears, six; horns, along the curve, forty. Females smaller, nearly straight horns. Young, with the colours deeper and more sordid. Vulgo *Bandhéra* and *Bhaăřăl*.

“*Ovis Nāhoőr, Nol.*—Medial sized wild sheep, with moderate subtrigonal uncompressed horns, presenting a rounded surface obliquely to the front, and a cultrated edge to the rear, inserted nearly in contact on the crest of the frontals, less remote from the orbits, and directed upwards and outwards with a semi-circular sweep, the rounded parts being again recurved backwards and inwards, and the general surface vaguely marked with infrequent rugæ; forehead broad and flat; chaffron arched; muzzle less attenuated; ears erect, short, and striated, and tail short and deer-like, as in the last; vesture or fur also similar, without beard or mane; general colour dull slaty blue, paled on the surface, and more or less tinted there with brownish, or fawn; head below, and belly and inside of the limbs near it, yellowish white; face, or nose rather, fronts of the entire limbs, a connecting band along the flanks, whole chest and tip of the tail, black; no disk on the buttocks; their mere margin and that of the tail paled. Snout to rump sixty inches; mean height, thirty-six; head as before, eleven; tail, with the hair, seven and three-quarters; ears, five and three-quarters; horns, along the curve, twenty-four. Females smaller, with small, straightish, suberect, depressed horns, directed upwards chiefly, and with the dark marks on the limbs and chest less extensive than in the male; frequently the chest is wholly unmarked. Young, with the colours deeper and more sordid, the marks still less extended, and wanting wholly on the chest and flanks. Vulgo *Nāhoőr* of the Nepalese.

“Nepal, March, 1841.”

The Sheep's Wool of India.—Dr. Royle states:—“In the country of the shawl goats, some sheep's wool of very good quality is produced. This might no doubt be easily improved, but the country is little under the influence of European advice or example, even if it were proffered. Attempts were made to divert a portion of this wool trade

towards India, but the difficulties were found to be considerable. Mr. Moorcroft was deputed in 1814 to that part of Little Thibet in Chinese Tartary, where the shawl goat is pastured, for the purpose of opening to Great Britain the means of obtaining the materials of the finest woollen fabric, and found that the Hooneas were obliged to send all their best wool to Cashmere.* In the year 1819, considerable advantage was anticipated from importing this wool into England. The Bhyangeé, however, when imported, was found to be unsaleable; as, of 189 bales of shawl and Bhyangeé wool imported in 1821, 1822, and 1823, costing, exclusive of freight and charges, £5,444, the gross sale proceeds amounted only to £889. This wool was bought from the Hooneas, who keep sheep with the shawl-wool goats, by the people of Kunawur, and brought thence to Rampore, the capital of Bissehur, on the Sutlej. Specimens of the same kind of wool, procured by Mr. Hodgson from the Booteas who visit Nepal, were forwarded to the Court of Directors of the East India Company in 1835, by Dr. Wallich. Of this, the sorted wool was valued here at from 10d. to 11d. per pound, some in the unsorted state at 5d. to 7d., and some was sold in the London market in 1834 at from 2½d. to 7d. per pound; the low price was chiefly owing to its dirty and mixed state."

Attention was turned in England to the subject of Indian wool, by Mr. Southey, of Coleman-street, addressing a letter, 24th November, 1836, to the Committee of Agriculture of the Royal Asiatic Society, respecting some wool imported here from Bombay. He suggested more attention being paid to the assortment of the wool, and improvement in the breed of sheep. In the following year, Mr. Southey again called their attention to the subject.

The great and rapid increase of the exports of wool from Bombay is evident from an inspection of the following extract from the official report of the Chamber of Commerce of Bom-

* "This is caused by strict injunction to all the owners of flocks not to sell any shawl wool except to the Cashmerians, or their agents, in consequence of a representation having been made to Government that the Jouaree merchants had bought some last year, and that the Cashmerians would suffer if any of this kind of wool were to pass into other hands."—*Moorcroft's Journey to Lake Manasarovara*.—*Asiatic Researches*.

bay for 1836–7. It is there stated that the article wool is particularly deserving of attention, from having so lately become an export, (the first shipment having been made in 1833,) and from the rapidity with which it has risen into an extensive and valuable staple, as will appear from the following statement taken from the records of the Custom-house. In the official year ending 30th April,

1834	... ..	69,944 lbs.
1835	.....	486,528 lbs.
1836	.....	1,196,664 lbs.
1837	.....	2,444,019 lbs.

It was rather hastily concluded that the whole of this was the result of the opening of the trade of the Indus; for Col. Jervis, of the Bombay service, has stated that the first exports of wool from Bombay were the produce exclusively of the Deccan sheep. But the merchants of Affghanistan, and other northern countries, who are in the habit of resorting to Bombay for trade, perceiving wool (an abundant produce of their own country) a marketable article at that Presidency, turned their attention to it for the first time.

A great part of the supply is derived from Cutch and Scinde, and from Marwar *via* Guzerat, and small quantities are also received from the Persian Gulf and Red Sea. Sir Alexander Burnes, that able and intelligent officer in whose fate the country is now so much interested (March 1), has lately given an account of the quantity and quality of the supply of wool likely to be derived from the great pastoral countries of Cabool and Bokhara. These are—

“ 1. The wool of Toorkistan, obtained chiefly in the neighbourhood of Bokhara and Samarcand, is more celebrated than that of Cabool. This is sent to Umrister, in the Punjab, where it is used to mix with the shawl-wool of Thibet, in making what are called Cashmere shawls. It is the produce of the goat, and not of the sheep, of Toorkistan, and is called *put*, in contradistinction to *pushmena*, which is used to express the fleece of the sheep.

“ 2. The wool or *put* of Cabool not at present exported, being entirely consumed in the native manufactures. It is procured from goats, and chiefly from the Hill Country of the

Huzaras* to the west of Cabool, and between that city and Herat, which has an elevation of about 6,000 or 8,000 feet above the level of the sea.

"3. The countless flocks of flat-tailed sheep in Cabool, which produce an abundance of wool. The fleece is of a glossy white colour, and is in Cabool called *pushmi burra*, and the fabrics prepared from it *burrak*, in contradistinction to *puttoo*. It sells at from two and a half to two Cabool rupees the seer, or sixteen pounds. It is brought in from all directions for sale at Cabool, and Sir Alexander Burnes states that he can scarcely put a limit to the supply, since the extent of pasture-land in these countries is not over-rated at four-fifths of the whole surface of the country; and a very large portion of the population, such as the Lohanees and Ghilgees, are shepherds, who remove from pasture to pasture, and rear their flocks with great care and attention. Nature, however, does as much as the people; for aromatic plants, in which sheep delight, are exceedingly abundant, and it is universally believed that they have considerable effect on the quality of the wool."†

Mr. Traill, who had seen the accounts extracted from Dr. Royle, and the letter from Major Kennedy, writes to the Compiler—

"As you have given some details regarding the wool of the Thibet sheep, I add further memoranda regarding cost, &c., to enable you to complete the account. A short notice regarding shawl wool is also subjoined.

"The wool produced by the sheep now bred on the Kumaoan mountains is coarse, and only adapted for the manufacture of common blankets.

"The wool of the Thibet sheep, which in Kumaoa is designated Bhyangeé, was obtained, for the greater part, by the Company's commercial agent at Almora. The article was there delivered on contract at 8 rupees the bazar maund, or about 2½d. per pound. From Almora to Calcutta the distance is about 1,220 miles, of which there is water-carriage for 1,100 miles.

* Major Kennedy observes upon this, "That the great Plateaus of Central Asia, on the Tartar side of the mountains, feed innumerable flocks of sheep."

† Notice on the wool of Cabool and Bokhara, by Sir A. Burnes.

“The principal objections made to this article as imported by the Company, appear to have been its dirty and mixed state. These objections might undoubtedly be obviated by a little trouble, and at a small additional cost, on the spot where the investment is provided. The wool in question is sheared from the Thibet sheep on the southern side of the Himalaya Passes, and within the Company’s territories, every year, when the flocks are first driven thither on the opening of the Passes, with loads of salt, borax, &c. &c., for barter. With due precaution, and slight additional labour, the wool might be there cleaned and sorted.

“In the table land of Thibet, the mean elevation of which exceeds 15,000 feet above the sea, every animal produces the substance commonly known as shawl wool. It is a species of down, covering the body of the animal at the roots of the hair. The goat yields the substance the most abundantly, and from the wool of this animal the Cashmere shawl is manufactured. The produce of other animals is also collected and worked upon the spot into a variety of worsted fabrics, one description of which is sold under the denomination of ‘Asses’ wool.’ When any of these animals of the Thibet are brought across the Himalaya into Hindostan, the production of the shawl-wool ceases. As carnivorous animals, such as dogs, in Thibet, are covered during winter with a similar substance, its growth is not wholly ascribable to the nature of the pastures; it may be considered as a provision of nature against the piercing blasts which prevail during the winter in that elevated region.”

COMMUNICATION MADE BY THOS. SOUTHEY, ESQ.

“Coleman Street, Feb. 14th, 1842.

“To James Bischoff, Esq.

“Dear Sir,

“As you have been pleased to express a wish that I would submit to paper the information I possess relative to the sheep and wool of India, with the view of introducing the result of my experience into your ‘Comprehensive History of the Woollen and Worsted Manufactures,’ I beg to assure you that I feel much pleasure in complying with your request.

" INDIAN WOOL.

" This class of wool first came under my notice towards the year 1807 or 1808, when the East India Company offered a quantity for sale recently imported by them, of which I bought a few bags at a low rate, the quality being very ordinary. Again, in 1822, a further quantity was sold by the Company, called Bhyangeé sheep's wool. At this sale I purchased twenty or thirty bags on account of a French house, a few of which were forwarded to Paris, and the remainder, by their orders, sent to Holland, but the vessel in which they were shipped was lost on her passage. In 1835, our house sold by auction eight bags of East India wool, and on inspecting one of them, we found it contained portions of various qualities, a part of which I estimated at from 15d. to 18d. per lb. About the same period, my attention was directed towards some samples of wool transmitted to the East India Company, which they forwarded to the Society of Arts. These I carefully inspected, and gave my report upon them. This incident brought me into communication with the Royal Asiatic Society, to whom our house subsequently addressed the following letter on the subject of Indian wool :—

Mr. Southey's Letter to the Royal Asiatic Society, printed in the "Proceedings of the Committee of Agriculture and Commerce," 8th April, 1837:—

" " London, 24th November, 1836.

" " We have much pleasure in offering you the following observations on the wool imported into this country from Bombay, by which you will perceive, there is in India a race of sheep, which produces wool that can be applied to useful purposes in some of our manufacturing districts. At the same time it will be seen, that by due attention to the assortment of the wool, and to the improvement of the breed of sheep, a more valuable description of wool may be produced.

" " Most of the wool which has hitherto been imported into this country from India, has been found of a short staple, with a vast quantity of hairs interspersed through the wool (what are technically called kemp hairs). They will not receive dye, which renders such wool unfit for general use, and consequently confines its application to the more ordinary branches of manufacture, such as blankets, and other low qualities of goods.

" " It evidently appears there are various descriptions of wool

produced in India, as we have seen some of a superior quality, which we are given to understand was produced in the province of Guzerat, some of which we estimate to be worth fifteen to eighteen pence per pound.

“ ‘ The whole of the wool hitherto imported from thence came from Bombay ; we are, therefore, unable to form an opinion where the wool is grown ; but should the information we have obtained prove correct, (that it is produced in Guzerat, and that that portion of the province is under British sway,) it may be deserving consideration, whether an improvement in the quality of the wool would not prove an advantage to this country.

“ ‘ Under this assumption, we shall proceed to make the following observations :—

“ ‘ During last year there was imported into London 773 bags of Indian wool, and into Liverpool, 624. 1397 bags were sold at public auction at $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. to $14\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. They were chiefly white, and well washed. There are occasionally found a few black locks interspersed through the bags, which ought to be carefully excluded, as the Indian sheep's wool is generally applied to the manufacture of white goods, consequently any admixture of coloured wool tends to deteriorate its value.

“ ‘ We have discovered amongst the finer qualities of Indian wool a considerable portion of yellow, discoloured locks, which operates very materially against the sale. In order to remove such an objection, it is requisite the discoloured wool should be selected from the white, and each kind packed in separate bags, by which means an increased competition for the article would be produced ; at the same time its value would be thereby enhanced. To which we may further add, the wool would be bought with greater avidity, as it would then be immediately applied to the various purposes of manufacture, without further trouble or expense.

“ ‘ To those who may feel the laudable desire of producing an improvement in the breed of sheep, and quality of their wool, we would recommend the introduction of some of our best woolled English rams amongst the Indian ewe flocks, as by so doing, the quality of the wool would be materially improved, inasmuch as it would thereby become both a better and more useful class of wool, at the same time the quantity would also be considerably augmented.

“ ‘ We remain,’ &c. &c.

“ I have thus given you, as far as my knowledge of the subject extends, a short account of the origin and progress of the importation of Indian wool into this country, and, in con-

clusion, I venture to predict, that with ordinary attention on the part of those upon whom the superintendence of flocks in India devolves, a description of wool may be there raised, that will become more valuable to the grower, and more beneficial to our manufacturers.

"I now beg leave to subjoin comparative returns of the importation of Indian wool into this country, during the years 1835 and 1840, at once showing the great and rapid increase which has been experienced.

" 1835, Liverpool, 773 bags.	" 1841, Liverpool 7372 bags.
London, ... 624 "	London, 3191 "
<hr/> 1397 "	<hr/> 10,563 "

The Ceylon Sheep.—At the point of the peninsula is the island of Ceylon. Very contradictory accounts have been given of the breeding and keeping of sheep in this island. Some have asserted that it is almost impossible long to preserve a flock of sheep in Ceylon, and, in fact, it is only at Jafnapatam that they have ever been bred on pasture with success. Ceylon abounds with bears, jackals, alligators, and enormous serpents, by which many sheep are destroyed.*

The Javanese Sheep.—Of these there are two varieties. They are both of a moderate size, but some have a pendulous growth beneath the jaw, the coat consisting principally of hair; the tail unusually large and fat, and weighing occasionally forty or fifty pounds; they are short-legged, and of a red and white colour. The other variety is white, with exceedingly long and pendulous ears, and is clothed with prettily curled wool.

Chinese Sheep.†—Returning through the interior of Asia, the immense empire of China presents itself, and, as might naturally be expected in such an extent of country, breeds of sheep differing from each other are found. First, is the long-legged sheep, resembling the African; they are not quite so heavy on their legs; the horns are middle-sized and curved; the fore-head is arched; the neck short; the tail is long, and the wool short and stunted.‡ More to the south, the fat-

* Youatt, page 129.

† Youatt, page 129.

‡ Animal Kingdom, vol. iv. page 390.

rumped sheep prevail, yielding every variety of wool; and in the same district are found a smaller lower sheep of a more European character, and producing a very fine and useful long wool. The Chinese manufacture some good serges from it, not so close as those made in Europe, but thinner and finer, and having a peculiar silky appearance. They likewise prepare a considerable quantity of felts of various colours. The largeness and beauty of the Chinese carpets have often been praised. An old traveller says, that when the Dutch presented the Emperor of China with some scarlet and other cloths made in Europe, he asked how and what they were made of? Being told, he replied, that his subjects could make them, and therefore there was no need to bring them so far. * †

Tartarian Sheep.—The wilds of Central Asiatic Tartary present nearly the same breeds of sheep, the same management, and the same modes of life in the owners, that have been described when those districts were considered that bordered on the country which the primitive shepherds traversed. The fat-rumped sheep chiefly occupy Southern Tartary; the broad-tailed ones are found in Northern and Middle Asia. In the former there is a considerable variety in the shape, size, and fleece, and particularly in the number of horns. The four-horned sheep are numerous in several parts, and a few have six horns; their forehead is convex, and there are wattles under the throat. ‡

The Argali.—Amidst the highest mountains of Central Asia lives the Argali, deemed by some authors, but erroneously so, the parent of all the varieties of the domestic sheep. He is one of the few remaining wild sheep, and, as such, and on account of his superior size and beauty, as well as the relation in which he has been supposed to stand to sheep generally, deserves particular attention. The account given by Pallas will be chiefly followed, for he describes that which he had actually seen.

Before Siberia was colonised, the Argali used to frequent the lofty mountains extending from the river Irtisch to Kamts-

* Navaretti's Account of China, (Churchill's Collection,) vol. i. page 45.

† Youatt, page 129.

‡ Youatt, page 130.

chatka, but now, shunning the neighbourhood of man, it has retreated to the more perfect deserts of Kamtschatka in the north, to the Mongolian and Songarian mountains towards the centre of Asia, and to the steppes of the Caucasus in the south.

When it is found, it is usually in some barren but not very lofty rock, where it can bask itself in the rays of the sun, and see the possible approach of danger on every side. It does not, however, occupy the highest part of the mountains on which it grazes. The ibex, an inhabitant of the same rocks, ranges far above it. Although it flies to these places for security, it does not, like the ibex, delight in the cold, but seeks as warm a situation as such desert region can afford.

The Argali is about the size of the fallow deer, but is very differently formed. Its legs and its neck are shorter, and the muscles of its limbs are stouter; it displays more bulk than the deer, and promises more strength than speed. The male is considerably larger and stouter than the female: he is three feet high at the withers, and sometimes weighs more than 200 pounds.

The head is that of a ram, but the ears are small in proportion to the developement of the head, and erect. The horns are of an enormous size, nearly four feet in length, and with a hollow so considerable, that young foxes occasionally conceal themselves in those that have been accidentally shed. According to Major Smith, they rise near the eyes before the ears, occupying the greater part of the back of the head, and nearly touching above the forehead, bending at first backwards and downwards, then to the front, and the points finally outwards and upwards; the base is triangular: the broadest side towards the forehead, the surface wrinkled, crossing to beyond their middle, and the extremity more smooth.* The horns, with the bony basis, will weigh 14 or 15 lbs.

The summer coat consists of short hair, smooth, and resembling that of a deer; the winter coat has a longer external coat of hair, but concealing a thick and soft layer of wool. The colour is of a reddish brown in summer, changing to a brownish grey in winter; and the inner coat of wool is always

* Lambert's Observations on Asia, Africa, and America, Vol. I, p. 130.

white. Both in winter and summer there is a large disk of buff colour on the haunch. The Argali are generally found in flocks of eight or ten in number.

A variety of the Argali is found in North America, and was long known by the name of the Sheep of California. The Canada free traders recognised it by the title of "Culblane." The Abbé Lambert gives the following account of it:—"Besides several sorts of animals known amongst us, there are two sorts of fallow beasts unknown in Europe. They call them sheep, because they have the figure of our sheep. The first species is as large as a calf one or two years old; their head has a great resemblance to that of a stag, and their horns to those of a ram; their tail and hair, which are speckled, are shorter than those of a stag: their flesh is very good and delicate."*

The Mouflon, or Musmon.—Buffon and Wilson have considered this sheep as identical with the Argali. Major Smith seems to regard it as a variety of the Argali. It inhabits the mountains of Corsica and Sardinia, and has been found in Crete, Cyprus, and most of the other islands of the Grecian Archipelago. It formerly abounded in Spain. Pliny describes it under the names of "Musmon" and "Ophion;" he says there is in Spain, but especially in the island of Corsica, a kind of Musmones, not altogether unlike to sheep, having a shag more like the hair of goats than a fleece with sheep's wool. Mr. Wilson gives the most correct account of this animal:—"It is usually about two feet and a half in height, and three feet and a half from the nose to the commencement of the tail. The horns never exceed two feet in length; they are curved backwards, and the point turns inwards; the roots of the horns are very thick and wrinkled; the ears are of a middle size, straight and pointed; there is the rudiment of a lachrymal opening as in the deer; the neck is thick, the body round, the limbs muscular, and the tail short. The colour is generally of a dull or brownish grey, with some white on the fore-part of the face and on the legs; a tuft of longer hair beneath the throat, a dark streak along the back, and the upper part of the face black, with black streaks along the

* Lambert's Observations in Asia, Africa, and America, vol. i. p. 130.
Youatt, p. 130.

cheeks; the mouth, the nostrils, and the tongue are also black, and a spot of pale yellow is on the sides. The forehead of this sheep is particularly arched. The females are generally without horns, and where they do appear, they are considerably less than those of the male. The Musmons rarely quit the highest parts of their native mountains, but the temperature of the countries in which these sheep are usually found does not admit of perpetual snow. They congregate in herds, seldom exceeding a hundred individuals.

"The Musmon is covered by a fine hair of no great length, having beneath it a thick grey-coloured wool, short, but full of spirals, and the edges thickly serrated.* It is a domestic animal."

Sheep of the United States of America.

"LETTER FROM WILLIAM JARVIS, Esq., dated Weathersfield, Vermont, January 13, 1837, to C. BENTON and C. F. BARRY, on the introduction of Merino Sheep into the United States."

Mr. Jarvis gives a most interesting account of the history of sheep, and the introduction of the Spanish merinos in the different countries of Europe, of which a full account has been already given in this compilation. There is added a letter from H. D. Grove, Esq., of the State of New York, containing a report of the sheep of his own country.

"The first importation of which I have any knowledge, any positive knowledge, was made in 1824 by Messrs. George and Thomas Searle, merchants, of Boston, of which I had the care and management. (I have heard that a few were imported in 1823, as an experiment.) They stood the fatigue of the voyage remarkably well: there were only 75 ewes and rams. The whole cargo was sold by public auction, in Brookline, near Boston, and were scattered in various parts of the country, but mostly in the New England States, and the State of New York. The following year, 1825, another importation of 180 ewes and rams, and a few lambs, was made, which were also sold by auction at the same place; several of

* Quarterly Journal of Agriculture, vol. ii. 359.

the rams brought 400 dollars per head. These prices were sufficient to excite the spirit of speculation, and consequently the year 1826 witnessed the arrival of Saxony sheep in Boston, New York, and other ports, to the number of 2,500. Many of these sheep were well descended, and of pure race, but a share, I am sorry to say, were not so.

“ The different voyages to this country, and travelling in the interior, satisfied me, that the northern and middle States, so far as I examined the soil and climate, were exceedingly well calculated for the production of fine wool, and would in time become decidedly wool-growing States. Upon which, I made up my mind to make an importation for the purpose of breeding from them, and establish myself as a wool-grower. I landed with them at New York in June, 1827, consisting of 60 yearling ewes, 25 rams, and 20 lambs, and I drove them to the section where I now reside. In 1828 I imported 40 ewes, 20 rams, and 10 lambs. With this number I laid the foundation of my electoral Saxon flock, which I have maintained in all their purity, and visibly improved them. Their descendants not only are as fine as the original stock, but they yield more wool, and are larger and better-shaped sheep. The whole number of Saxony sheep imported amounted to about three thousand. It has been frequently asked, whether as fine wool can be grown in this country as Saxony. Ten years' experience have fully satisfied me on this point. In some respects, we possess natural advantages over Germany.”

SHEEP, WOOL, &c., OF THE UNITED STATES. 335

NUMBER OF SHEEP AND POUNDS OF WOOL PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN 1864.
ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL RETURNS, WITH POPULATION AND OTHER STATISTICS.

State.	Square Miles.	Population.	Wheat, Bushels.	Sheep, Number.	Wool, lbs.	Horses and Mules.	Cattle.	Swine.
Maine	31,962	501,793	648,166	649,364	1,465,351	59,206	327,255	117,386
New Hampshire...	9,280	284,574	442,964	606,881	1,260,988	35,350	261,088	120,167
Vermont	10,205	281,948	642,963	1,303,430	3,257,735	60,274	350,106	237,953
Massachusetts...	7,820	737,699	158,923	378,236	1,063,651	62,404	271,760	143,021
Rhode Island...	1,363	108,830	3,088	90,146	103,690	8,074	36,700	29,669
Connecticut...	4,770	310,015	86,980	406,965	893,675	34,751	233,969	132,222
New York	46,300	2,428,921	11,653,907	5,381,225	4,912,144	476,115	2,642,418	2,116,953
New Jersey	6,800	373,308	774,023	213,653	386,373	69,769	219,548	259,051
Pennsylvania...	43,960	1,724,022	13,629,760	3,396,431	3,076,783	338,665	1,146,418	1,450,531
Delaware	2,068	70,065	213,165	39,247	64,404	14,421	54,883	74,328
Maryland	10,839	469,292	8,511,443	262,969	500,499	93,954	240,482	421,720
Virginia	64,008	1,239,797	10,066,809	1,280,736	2,572,044	243,173	1,068,313	1,916,230
South Carolina...	30,080	296,308	706,925	224,947	289,202	130,828	573,810	888,513
Georgia	58,200	677,197	1,732,366	234,947	363,340	134,748	765,060	1,268,314
Florida	38,850	1,519,467	16,214,530	4405,100	3,666,744	407,404	186,204	2,084,268
Ohio	44,720	829,210	4,547,572	748,459	1,097,526	327,526	177,300	2,786,930
Tennessee	48,000	551,176	105	100,056	49,599	99,067	348,708	344,685
Louisiana	50,875	373,651	746,106	144,372	173,400	139,515	607,590	701,360
Alabama	45,375	381,102	196,476	128,376	185,839	109,227	623,157	995,739
Mississippi	60,384	60,384	296,077	296,077	462,644	167,678	376,623	1,072,513
Indiana	34,800	683,314	4,164,238	673,932	1,202,209	243,767	614,489	1,530,051
Illinois	59,130	474,404	2,740,380	377,563	600,866	195,186	604,693	1,394,286
Michigan	177,750	211,705	2,189,363	39,985	169,139	39,085	135,527	393,004
Arkansas	124,200	95,641	112,200	41,877	63,034	10,081	37,449	...
Iowa Territory...	...	43,068	167,747	13,384	23,028	2,145	3,274	...
Florida .....	...	43,712	12,147	572	707	...	10,509	18,941
North Carolina...	57,750	758,110	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kentucky	43,802	777,397	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wisconsin	39,015	80,752	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	17,100,672	17,114,881	27,108,489	27,108,489	27,108,489	27,108,489	27,108,489	27,108,489

No statistical returns of the four last States.

ESTIMATE OF THE VALUE OF PROPERTY IN THE UNITED STATES.

Value 3,700,000,000 dollars.
 Debt 215,000,000 "
 Annual Interest ... 11,000,000 "

ESTIMATE OF AGRICULTURAL AND MANUFACTURING PRODUCE.

Cotton	81,000,000	dollars.
Tobacco	15,000,000	„
Rice	4,500,000	„
Bread Stuffs	275,000,000	„
Manufactures	300,000,000	„
Other Articles.....	50,000,000	„
<hr/>		
Total	725,000,000	„
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Exports	131,571,950	„
Imports	104,805,891	„

West India Sheep.—Sheep have been bred in Jamaica since the first discovery of the island. They are small, but the flesh is good ; and the wool, although deteriorated by admixture of hair, is peculiarly fine and soft. On account of this admixture, however, it has not been applied to any valuable manufacturing purpose. Little attention is paid to the cultivation of sheep in many of the West India islands.

The Alpaca.—In vol. i., page 398, extracts have been made from Mr. Walton's Historical and Descriptive Account of the Peruvian sheep, which was published in 1811. That gentleman has in the last year (1841) published another pamphlet, from which the following is extracted :—

“ In whatever point of view we look at the alpaca, this animal will be found a suitable and an economical stock, not only on the mountain farms in Scotland and Ireland, but also on the Welsh hills, where the old breeds of sheep and goats gradually disappear. For the reasons above stated, the alpaca is not liable to many of the disorders incidental to common sheep, neither is its offspring exposed to the various accidents which befall the lamb almost from the moment it is ushered into life. To the tender of an Andes flock, the snow storm is disarmed of all its terrors; and as the stranger, when naturalized among us, would feed upon herbage left behind by the cattle and sheep which had gone over the ground before him, he would not consequently interfere with the pasturage of our present herds and flocks, nor diminish in the slightest degree the provision of food reserved for them. The income which a farmer would derive from this new breeding stock will be readily calculated, when it is taken into account that

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the South Down fleece seldom weighs more than two pounds, whereas the alpaca yields from six to eight, and his wool always commands a higher price, besides keeping for seven years if the markets should be low. Experience has, moreover, taught us, that sheep are a precarious stock. There may be another pestilence among them, as there was in 1824 and 1827, when Leicesters sold from 3s. to 4s. per head, as they were dying of the rot.

" Besides stocking our waste lands, the alpaca is likely to become a favourite tenant of the park, where its fine figure, graceful attitudes, placid disposition, and playful gambols, would excite interest. In 1811, when Mr. Cross exhibited his first alpaca in London, the late Lady Liverpool repeatedly went to see it, and so much was she delighted with its beauty, the softness and brilliancy of its coat, and its animated and beaming features, that she kissed it as if it had been a child, and had it turned loose upon her own lawn, in order that she might witness its movements when freed from restraint."

" This animal seems destined to compete with the deer. Its flesh, which, as well as its wool, would doubtless improve, is considered equal to venison, and peculiarly well adapted for hams. Its skin, when prepared, might be appropriated to various uses, such as the making of accoutrements, traces, straps, and also for bookbinding. The system generally prevailing among British farmers is to look to the improvement of the carcase, almost leaving the wool to chance, from an opinion that it is the flesh, and not the fleece, which affords a remunerating price. Even in this respect, the alpaca would be an eligible stock. Sir John Narborough declared that he

* " The accompanying wood-cut is a faithful representation of the animal in question. It was imported from Lima by the late Fermin de Tastet, Esq., who passed it to Mr. Tharpe, of Chippenham Park, Cambridgeshire, in exchange for a pair of coach horses. It was the most beautiful specimen ever brought to this country, and so must have been considered at Lima, where it was a lady's pet, and had still the holes open in its ears in which gold rings had been placed. Mr. Cross gave £100 for it, a price which in 1811 could not have been considered extravagant, if it is only recollected that in 1804, when the first sale of merino flocks took place, one ram sold for forty-two guineas; at the second sale in 1805, seventeen rams and twenty-four ewes sold for £1,148 10s., averaging £30 each; in 1808, the highest price for a ram was £74, and the average £33. but in 1810, when their character had been established, thirty-three rams averaged £58, and one choice one fetched 173 guineas."

killed a guanaco on the Patagonian coast, which weighed 268 lbs.; and Captain King affirms that one which fell to his lot, when skinned and cleaned, netted 168 lbs.; at the same time we learn from Captain Fitzroy, that while at the mouth of the Santa Cruz river, he killed a guanaco weighing 50 lbs. heavier than any he had seen on the Patagonian coast, and equal to 300 lbs.* The first are nearly the weights of the best alpacas, though they vary in size, but seldom are under 200 lbs., and of this weight they may be daily seen in the shambles at Huamanga and the higher towns in Peru. They consequently weigh twice as much as ordinary sheep. South Downs seldom exceed 100 lbs.; the London butcher, indeed, prefers them under 90. A haunch of lama, alpaca, or guanaco, at a Peruvian feast, occupies the place that a sirloin of beef does among us. The introduction of the alpaca would not only render those parks productive which are not already stocked with deer, but also more attractive, and at the same time lead to a new era in the history of farming. This animal is equally calculated to be a valuable adjunct to the cottage, almost, I could have said, inmate, for its cleanliness and social habits entitle it to a corner there by the side of the watch-dog.

“ The opinions which I expressed thirty years ago, of the capacity of Peruvian sheep to adapt themselves to the climate and food of this country, are supported by a series of suc-

* “ The two enterprising officers above alluded to confirm the accounts transmitted to us of the watchful character of the guanaco. ‘ Whenever a herd is feeding,’ says Captain King, ‘ one is posted, like a sentinel, on a height, and at the approach of danger gives an instant alarm by a loud neigh, when away they all go, at a round gallop, to the next eminence, where they quietly resume their feeding.’ Captain Fitzroy is more minute in his remarks on this animal. ‘ In the winter,’ he observes, ‘ when the snow lies deep on the ground, the Tekcenica people assemble to hunt the guanaco, which then comes down from the highlands to seek for pasture near the sea. The long legs of the animal stick deeply into the snow and soft boggy ground, disabling him from escape, while the Fuegians and their dogs hem him in on every side and quickly made him their prey.’ In another place Captain F. observes, that he saw ‘ scattered herds of ever-wary guanacos, startled at man’s approach, neighing, stamping, and tossing their elegant heads.’ To this he adds, that ‘ at night the guanacos choose the clearest places for sleeping, lying down together like sheep, and in the day-time they avoid the thickets and all such places as might shelter their watchful enemy, the Indian.’ He further remarks, that ‘ the condors prevent the increase of this beautiful, inoffensive, and useful animal.’ ”

cessful experiments. The late Duchess of York made an early one, as regards pleasure-grounds, the first in England, and took great delight in witnessing the gambols of an alpaca on her own lawn. The Earl of Derby, with that patriotic spirit and splendid taste which have distinguished him through a long life, also stepped forward among the first breeders, and his lordship has now at Knowsley a little flock of lamas and alpacas, amounting to fourteen, two of which were bred on the spot, whose wool is finer, softer, and more beautiful than that on the backs of their parents. The proof that the wool improves with our pasture is, in fact, established in this instance. The young are eight and twenty months old, and already the first has wool upon it six inches long. A fine male alpaca, shorn three years ago, has at present a coat upon it from eighteen to twenty inches long, thus proving that the wool grows from six to eight inches yearly, if regularly shorn. Speaking of the practicability of introducing the Peruvian sheep more generally, in a letter addressed to William Danson, Esq., of Liverpool, who, accompanied by a friend, visited Knowsley at the beginning of the current month, his lordship says, that 'he certainly knows of nothing likely to prevent the propagation of the animal in this country. On the contrary,' he adds, 'the gentlemen will see in these grounds living specimens that they can and will do so, one female having produced in each of the two last seasons, and the young are doing well.' His lordship then expresses his anxious desire 'to obtain the remainder of the species, more especially the vicuña.'

"Goods made from alpaca wool constitute a middle texture between silk and common sheep's wool, but partaking more of the appearance and properties of the former than the latter. From the experiments instituted, it is the opinion of persons acquainted with the principles and practice of weaving, that alpaca is also calculated to take the place of the wool obtained from the Cashmere goat, which in some respects it resembles. Camblets are made from mohair yarn, and when dyed and subjected to the process of watering, the surface appears wavy and marked with shades, in which state the article is called moreen, and used for curtains and other purposes. I do not speak practically, nor have I had it in my

power to obtain the advice of experienced dyers on this part of the subject; but it appears to me that the wavy effect on camblets is produced by killing or allaying the transparency in the component particles of the wool. If such really is the case, alpaca textures are admirably suited for the process of watering, and on the general run its wool might be had at from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 6d. per lb. In Asia Minor the wool of the female Angora goat is preferred to that of the male, and in some instances carefully separated and kept by the natives for the manufacture of their most delicate articles. I have not been able to ascertain whether there is any difference between the fleece of a female and male alpaca, but I believe, as regards colour, that black is more valuable than white, being adapted for sprigs and other figures in vests and ladies' dresses not requiring the aid of dye.*"

Mr. Walton has since sent an essay on the same subject to the Highland Agricultural Society, for which the following resolution was passed:—

“At a meeting of the Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland, held at Edinburgh on Tuesday, the 11th January, 1842, the gold medal was voted to William Walton, Esq., of London, for an essay on the means and advantages of naturalizing the alpaca in this country. A paper (adds the report) abounding in much curious information with reference to this interesting animal.”

Sheep of Australia.—In the evidence given before the Committee of the House of Lords in 1828, of which an account has already been given, there is much information respecting the wools of Australia.

A very excellent book was published last year,—

“A TREATISE ON SHEEP: addressed to the Flock-Master
“of Australia, Tasmania, and Southern Africa, show-

* Quantity of Alpaca Wool imported into Great Britain:

1834	...	5,700 lbs.	1838	...	459,900	„
1835	...	183,400	1839	...	1,325,500	„
1836	...	109,900	1840	..	1,650,000	„
1837	..	385,800				

“ing the Means by which the Wool of these Colonies
“may be Improved, and suggesting Ideas for the Intro-
“duction of other Lanigerous Animals suited to the
“Climate, and calculated to add to their Agricultural
“resources. By THOMAS SOUTHEY, Wool Broker.”

The above work is most valuable, not only to the colonies immediately mentioned, but to all wool growers and wool dealers in every part of the world. The author gives, in a concise but clear way, instructions which cannot fail to be most useful.

Mr. Southey says,—“The wool of Australia has progressively improved in condition since its introduction into our markets, and the sheep owners will do well to increase their flocks, especially as regards combing wool; always bearing in mind that fine qualities can be raised from inferior ewes, by supplying them with a succession of fine woolled rams.

“This improvement is material, for although during the last year, and up to the present period, the demand for combing wool has not been so brisk as could be wished, this description is nevertheless often preferred by clothiers. At the same time the Australian farmer will see that quantity rather than quality is the surest means of obtaining an adequate remuneration. When in request for fancy goods, combing wool commands prices exceeding the expectation of the consignee, and indeed generally will prove as valuable as short grown fleeces.

“The wool imported from Port Philip has been prepared in a manner equal to my most sanguine expectations, which leads me to infer, that the districts round that place will ultimately rise into importance from the quality of their fleeces. The flocks of Van Diemen’s Land also yield admirable combing wool, clearly evincing that the land at Launceston and its neighbourhood is peculiarly suited for the pasturage of sheep.”

CHAPTER X.

Sheep of Sweden—Norway—Denmark—Iceland—Hanover—Flanders—Holland—Russia—Introduction of Merinos into Russia—Russian Sheep's Wool—Wallachia—Moldavia—Moravia—Greece—Turkey—Cyprus—Savoy—Switzerland—Spain—France—Prussia—Prussian Statistics—Sheep of Saxony—Hungary.

The Swedish Sheep.

THE native sheep of Sweden are far from being a valuable breed. They are of a moderate size, but the body is long and slender; the legs also are long and bare of wool; the head small, the horns short, the fleece open, coarse in quality, and of a medium length; they are hardy in constitution, they care not for the rigour of the climate, and their flesh is good, although not overburdened with fat. It was evident that Sweden could support a better animal, for the herbage, although short, was thick and nutritive; and although the winter was often rigorous, the face of the country was such as to afford some shelter from the storm. Accordingly, many attempts were made to improve the breed by means of foreign crosses. Recourse was had, and with considerable but variable success, to the German and Flemish sheep, and to the Leicester and Cheviots from Britain.

At length arose the wish to establish a fine-woolled breed in Sweden, and it is singular that this northern country should be the first to import the sheep of the south, and to succeed to a very important extent in naturalizing them.

Mr. Alstroemer in 1723 imported a small flock of merinos. It was a hazardous—it appeared to be a presumptuous, and an almost insane attempt, and this spirited individual had to struggle with seemingly insuperable obstacles. He, however, succeeded in collecting his little flock of southern sheep, and in preserving them from all apparent deterioration.

The Swedish Government was wise; in 1739 it established an agricultural school, it placed Mr. Alstroemer at the head of it, it offered premiums to the breeders of Spanish sheep, and premiums on the sale of the best wool. The plan succeeded: the importation of foreign fine wool diminished, and the growth of native wool began to exceed in quantity that which was imported. The manufacture of fine cloth increased, and yet the importation of fine wool was lessened. It did not quite cease, because some of the German wools, grown at no great distance, could be purchased at little price. The merinos did not supersede the native breed, because the growth of long wool was indispensable for the clothing of the peasantry, and every flock did not prosper, because the merinos, like other sheep, require more attention both in the breeding and the management, than the Swedish boor was willing to bestow, in order to preserve them in full perfection.

In 1764 there were in Sweden 65,000 sheep of the pure merino blood, and 23,000 of a breed between the merino and the native, and which bear an improved sort of wool. They gradually increased, and are now supposed to amount to a hundred thousand, or one twenty-fifth part of the whole number of sheep in Sweden.

In general they preserve their original form, and their original fleece, and, although they have somewhat increased in size and hardihood, their wool has lost none of its softness and fineness.

The management of the merino sheep by intelligent agriculturists is suitable to the character of the sheep and the nature of the climate. The system of migration is completely abandoned. Both the native and imported sheep, after having been pastured during the day, are usually housed in the night at all seasons, on account of the great number of wolves. The peasantry and small farmers have these houses too confined and crowded, the better sheep-farmers have them large and well ventilated. The native Swedish flocks are kept in these buildings when the weather is unusually severe; the merinos are housed during the six winter months; but the most scrupulous attention is paid to the cleanliness of the place, and scarcely any inclemency of the weather will prevent the whole flock being driven out daily, at least for a few

minutes, in order to breathe the fresh air, while the sheep-house is cleaned. The merino sheep are seldom used for breeding until they are two and a half years old, and are fattened for the butcher at seven. Great quantities of cheeses are made from the milk of the native breeds, but the milk of the merino is left for the nourishment of the lambs.*

The Norwegian Sheep.—Next in order of time stands Norway. The Norwegian sheep do not differ much from those of Sweden. The legs are long; the carcase has likewise the appearance of length and unthriftiness, and the wool is coarse, and moderately long. One of their earliest natural historians (Pontoppidan) says, that some English sheep were imported as a stationary breed, and with a view to the improvement of the native ewes; but they speedily degenerated, and after a third or a fourth generation, were hardly superior to the natives. He also relates, that in the islands on the coast of Norway, there are many wild sheep, that are never housed or taken care of, but are annually caught to be shorn. Later travellers speak of the same breed as existing in a wild state amidst the snows, without receiving attention or food from man, and so untamed and untameable, that they cannot be taken unless they are fairly hunted down by a person on horseback. Efforts have been made to reclaim and domesticate them, but they have rarely survived the first year of their confinement. They appear to belong to the primitive fat-rumped breed, for Pontoppidan affirms, that their fat is found in their external parts, and covers their flesh like a warm cushion. The same author likewise asserts, what seems singular in so cold a climate, that when in summer they are turned out upon the mountains, they are so exceedingly tormented with the heat, and with gnats and mosquitoes, that they run about regardless of the danger, and in their frenzy many have lost their lives, falling down precipices; on this account the peasants build rude huts for them, into which they may retreat from their tormentors.

A partial improvement is said to have been effected in the Norwegian sheep by a Spanish ram that was wrecked about the middle of the last century on the western coast. The

* Youatt. page 157.

sheep in the neighbourhood of Smaalchaem produce better wool than in many other parts of Norway. A few of their fleeces have weighed six or seven pounds. That which has probably tended much to make the Norwegian sheep more deteriorated than even cold or starvation could effect, is the custom of frequent shearing. Lasteyrie says, that they are shorn twice, thrice, and even four times in the course of a year. The rapid growth of wool immediately after shearing is in all sheep accompanied by a slight degree of fever and debility, and the recurrence of this several times in the year must tend to weaken the animal, and interfere materially with his condition. It is also a coarse kind of wool that is produced.*

The Danish Sheep.—These are in many respects not unlike the sheep of Sweden and Norway. The head is long and thin, the neck arched, the eyes small, the countenance wild, and the legs and tail without wool. In some parts of Holstein they are without horns; they are of moderate size, and their wool of a medium length, which may be used either for card or comb. It is shorn only once in the year; these sheep are rarely or never housed.

In the Duchy of Holstein is a peculiar and valuable breed of sheep, and bearing considerable analogy to some of the primitive ones; they are of a moderate size, polled, yielding fine wool, but not in great quantity: the tail is broad, and fat to a very considerable degree towards the root, and gradually diminishes in size, and terminates almost in a point. A bell-wether here, as in Spain, answers the purpose of a dog for the guidance of the sheep.

About the year 1780, the Danes began seriously to think of ameliorating their native breed by the introduction of the merinos. A few of them were imported, but from some neglect or mismanagement, they evidently, and very soon, deteriorated. In 1797 the Government wisely determined to operate on a larger scale. A flock of 300 merinos, composed of some of the best breeds of the Leonese transhumantes was procured, and located at Esserum, about twenty miles from Copenhagen; they were carefully and skilfully managed, and

* Youatt, page 166.

although they have not superseded the native breed, nor in every province effected much change in them, yet they have in many places improved the general character of the sheep and wool, and enabled the Danes to export from Copenhagen alone more than 800,000 lbs. of wool, nearly half of which, and of the finest quality, reached the English shores.*

In vol. i. page 396, extracts have been given respecting sheep from Mackenzie's Travels in Iceland; the following is from Youatt:—

The Iceland Sheep.—The sheep of this frozen climate are of two kinds; a small, and probably the native breed, in colour varying from dun to almost black; and a larger white breed, probably imported from a more southerly region. The coat is that which nature would give to the inhabitants of such a clime. It consists of long coarse hair externally, and a close layer of wool within, which no wet or cold can penetrate. This wool, however, when freed from the hair, is of little value for manufacturing purposes, and is fit only for horse and collar cloths, and common rugs and blankets. Many of the last are exported to South America.

Even in so cold a country they are rarely sheltered from the winter's storm, nor is any provision made for the winter's food; their only refuge is the jutting rock or the mountain cavern. In their haste to reach those places when overtaken by a storm, and the snow driving against them and confusing their vision, many are precipitated down the cliffs, and drowned in the sea beneath. If they are surprised by a snow storm before they can reach the coast, they turn their heads towards each other, and huddle together in a round close body, the united heat of which raises a dense vapour, that penetrates through the snow, and directs the shepherd to the place where his flock is buried, although not always till the sheep are nearly starved, and have begun to feed on each other's wool in order to preserve life. Kerguelin affirms that when the sheep have once been driven to this sad extremity, they will afterwards, even on the most plentiful food that Iceland affords, frequently nibble and tear the fleece of their companions; the habit becomes so inveterate, and the appetite

* Youatt, page 167.

for this strange nutriment so strong, that it seems a kind of mania, and the farmer is compelled to destroy these sheep. Livingston adds, that in cold nights, without snow, and when the bleak wind pinches them, they keep each other warm by pressing close together, and those in the centre relieve in turns those which are in the outer part of the circle, and exposed to the greater severity of the blast; thus necessity sharpens the invention of beasts as well as men. The only kindness these animals receive from their keepers in winter, is being fed on fish bones or frozen offal, when their natural food is buried too deep even for their ingenuity and patience to reach it. Yet they repay all this neglect with a supply of wool, which to the Icelfander is valuable, and also a quantity of milk, far superior to that which is yielded by any southern flock. If Von Traill is to be believed, an Iceland ewe will yield from two to six quarts per day.

The principal peculiarity about these sheep is the number of their horns, the greater part both of the small and large breed having more than two, and a few of them carrying eight horns; they commonly have three or four or five; most of them of a spiral form, yet often but little developed; the side horns are curved in various directions.*

Hanoverian Sheep.—There were originally two breeds—one a larger size, kept on the marshes, the carcass weighing from 80 to 100 lbs., and the fleece averaging from 5 to 6 lbs., but the flesh not good and the wool coarse; and a smaller breed, resembling old Rhenish or Saxon, with shorter wool, but coarse, and of little value. Both kinds were badly managed; the farmer used to keep as many only as would supply his family with wool and milk; almost every cottager had two or three; they were chained in pairs, and picked up their living in the dykes and other unenclosed spots. They were kept chiefly for their milk, all the Hanoverian cheese being made of ewe's milk alone; they were wretchedly poor, and when shorn looked little better than skeletons.

Hodskin, in his travels in Germany, in 1826, says that the smaller sheep have now been crossed with the merinos, and yield fleeces as fine as any merinos, weighing, on the ewe,

* Youatt, page 168.

from 2 to 2½ lbs., and on the ram from 4 to 4½ lbs., and that these sheep are now cultivated for the wool principally, or almost exclusively, and he adds that the peace, and communication with England, had nearly doubled its price.*

The Flemish and Dutch Sheep.—In the early part of the seventeenth century, the large Guinea sheep were introduced into the islands near the Texel, and into Groningen, and called the Mouton Flandrin. They there found a pasture suited to the improvement of their naturally long and gaunt form; they were crossed with some of the larger native breeds, the English long-woolled sheep, and particularly the Romney, contributed more to their amelioration, and they are now a singular, but in many respects a valuable breed. They have somewhat decreased in size, they are seldom more than two feet six inches in height; they are polled, with long pendent ears; the leg is rather inclined to be long; the tail is short and large, and covered with wool; the fleece averages from 10 to 12 inches in length, but is far from being fine, and is devoted to the preparation of coarse cloth and goods.

In Friesland is a similar breed of sheep, but with more of British blood; it is of a larger size, measuring sometimes two feet nine inches in height, without horns, having pendent ears, a head so long as almost to approach to deformity; the tail long and small, and generally devoid of wool. The wool is long, finer, and with more numerous curves, and can be appropriated to more valuable purposes. They have considerable resemblance to the British, or rather the Irish long-woolled sheep, but they have never cast off their original lean appearance and disinclination to fatten. They are more prolific than any English breed; their milk is valuable, and is used by the Dutch and Flemings in the manufacture of a considerable quantity of cheese of good quality.

The merino sheep gradually found their way into Belgium and Holland; the precise date of their arrival is not recorded, but there is so essential a difference in the character and habits of the Flemish and Spanish sheep, and in the climate and soil and production of the two countries, that, as might be readily expected, the experiment failed.

* Youatt, page 175.

*The Russian Sheep.**—Far more attention continues to be paid to the breeding of sheep than of cattle, through the whole of this immense empire. All the wandering tribes possess a great number of sheep. Many of the inferior Boors and Cossacks in Southern Russia have flocks consisting of many hundreds of these animals.

The characters of the sheep differ materially in the various districts. Towards the north they are small, short-tailed, and bear a coarse and harsh wool. About the river Don, and still more towards the centre, and on the banks of the Dnieper, and in some districts of the Ukraine, they yield a better wool; and thence the greater part of the material for the inland cloth manufactories is supplied. In the neighbourhood of the Baltic a still superior breed is found, and the Dago and Osel islands near the gulf of Finland are celebrated for their wool; the cloths that are manufactured from it have often as fine and close a substance as that which is imported from Great Britain. The finest of the Russian wools are exported from Odessa, the produce of all the neighbouring provinces, but principally of the Crimea; there is no district in the empire so fitted by nature for the pasturage of sheep.

There are three kinds of sheep in the Crimea and in Taurida. The common breed are white or black, or grey, with very coarse wool, and a long tail covered with fat; they are kept in exceedingly large flocks; a rich Tatar will frequently possess 50,000 sheep: they wander from the mountains to the sea coast, according to the season of the year; the grey sheep produce grey lambkins, 30,000 of which are exported every year. During the independence and prosperity of that country, they were destined for Poland, where they were sold at a very high price. Fifty or sixty thousand black lambkins, which are also much valued, are exported from the Crimea.

The mountain sheep are smaller than those on the plains; their wool is beautifully fine, and, even before the improvement which many of the flocks have undergone, used to find its way to the French manufactories. The Crimea was

* Youatt, page 176.

scarcely in the possession of Russia ere many attempts were made to improve the sheep naturally so valuable. The merinos were, in process of time, introduced here, as into every other part of Europe.

Slade, in his "Travels in Germany and Russia," published in 1840, gives the following account of their introduction:—

"One of the most successful, as well as interesting speculations in Southern Russia has been in merinos; and the commencement was attended with such difficulty and chance as to make it rather romantic. M. Rouvier, a French merchant at Malaga, on becoming bankrupt in 1802, resolved to try his fortune anew in Russia. He embarked in a vessel bound to the Euxine, and landed at Sebastopol; thence travelling and traversing the country to Nicolaef, he was struck with the extent and fertility of the steppe, and, reverting to the grazing lands in Spain, thought that merinos would thrive on it. His fortune then consisted, it might be said, of a piece of paper and a pencil; he drew out a memoir, in which he described the condition and expense of merinos in Spain, and pointed out the advantage of introducing the breed into a country where pasturage was unlimited and unowned. This was sent to the Minister of the Interior; the author demanded a grant of 10,000 discatines of land, and a loan of 100,000 roubles without interest; he offered to return to Spain to purchase rams, and proposed that a government agent should accompany him, if deemed requisite. He engaged to have 10,000 merinos on his land at the end of twelve years, and to have repaid half of the loan. The government agreed to these terms. A vessel was freighted for M. Rouvier, who sailed for Spain, provided with letters for the Russian Embassy at Madrid. On arriving at Malaga, the hitherto successful adventurer caught the yellow fever, and there lost three months between sickness and quarantine. This delay nearly caused the complete failure of the enterprise, for when he at length reached Madrid, the Russian Ambassador had just quarrelled with Godoy, and therefore no assistance was forthcoming from that quarter. In those days the exportation of merinos was prohibited, and only granted occasionally as a special favour. After ineffectual attendance for two months, Rouvier solicited an audience of the Prince of

Peace, with a determination to throw himself at his feet, if necessary, in order to gain leave to export a few rams. Godoy said to him, 'If you had addressed yourself to me in the first place, I would have granted your request, but as you chose to make the Russian Ambassador your mediator, you may return, you shall not have one sheep.' Rouvier accordingly left Madrid, and returned to Malaga in despair, for the issue of the negotiation was to make his fortune, or leave him a beggar. He was about to re-embark for Russia, when a hidalgo came to him mysteriously, and said 'I know your object; I will dispose of 100 rams to you; name the breed you prefer, and you shall have them.' Rouvier of course accepted the unexpected offer, and willingly agreed to the enormous price demanded. It was settled between them that he should ship a small cargo for the Crimea to avert suspicion, then sail, and after dark alter his course for a certain cove to the westward of Malaga. If his signal-light should be answered, he was to send his boat on shore for the sheep with the money. All turned out as desired; and, Jason-like, he sailed away triumphantly with the golden fleece. At the Dardanelles he was detained two months by a foul wind, he arrived at Sebastopol at length with eighty sheep remaining out of the hundred, and there experienced another delay by quarantine. That being terminated, the ship was weighing anchor to move into the harbour, half a mile distant, when Rouvier, struck by a presentiment of danger, entreated the captain to land him and his flock at the Lazzaretto. The captain ridiculed his fears, and naturally objected to lose time in order to gratify a whim. Nevertheless he yielded to the nearly frantic solicitation of his passenger, and set him ashore with his sheep. Scarcely was he landed, and the vessel under sail, when a squall took her between the reefs which form the entrance of Sebastopol harbour and threw her on the rocks, where she bilged and went to pieces. M. Rouvier led his charge to Theoderia: he gave twenty rams to the Minister of the Interior, twenty to the President of the Council, and with forty commenced operation on his own account. He crossed with sheep of the country, and four years afterwards obtained an important addition to his stock from Saxony; he fully realized his promises, and left a large

fortune amongst his three daughters, one of whom married his partner, Mr. Wassal, (whose property is near Perecop) and who is said to derive (1839) near 180,000 roubles a year from merino sheep. The example has been extensively followed in Russia: many of the German and other colonists on the steppe, and in Bessarabia, have flocks of 20,000 sheep. The long and inclement winter in Southern Russia renders care necessary; but the grazing and the air in Southern Russia in summer are peculiarly adapted to the breed."

The Odessa wool possesses very high felting properties, and is a valuable material, but it is inferior to the merino, and most decidedly so to the Saxony and other German and Prussian wool, where the merino wool has been kept pure.*

Mr. Southey gives the following account of Russian sheep's wool:—

"The wool obtained from Galatz is chiefly the production of flocks pastured in Wallachia, Bulgaria, and Moldavia. The sheep consist of two breeds, one of which resembles the Macedonian flocks, while the other approaches those found on the banks of the Don. The first produces the wool denominated the zegai wool: it is of a short staple, well washed and assorted. The fleeces of the other breeds from the Don are washed clean, but the staple is long and very coarse. This description is known under the name of Donskoi wool.

"That embarked at Odessa is the produce of flocks kept in Bessarabia and the Crimea, and is the growth of flocks imported into the above-named parts from Spain and Germany, by the Duke de Richelieu, during the reign of Catherine: some of these flocks have been crossed with those descended from the Macedonian breeds. Their wool is fine, well washed, and known in England under the head of brook washed, or clean washed Odessa wool."

The Wallachian Sheep.—The great size and spiral form of the horns, and the long and silky-looking fleece, give them a noble appearance. The horns differ as materially in the two sexes as they do in some of the British sheep. In the ram they usually spring almost perpendicularly from the ridge

* Youatt, p. 136.

of the frontal bone, and then take a beautiful spiral form. In the female they protrude nearly at right angles from the head, and then become twisted in a singular way. The Wallachian are about the size of the Dorset sheep, but not so tall; they are usually white; the ears are small and pendent, and the tail long. The fleece is also long; it is composed of mingled wool and hair, the hair having a few curves, and these producing a pleasant appearance on the back of the animal.* In its native state, and with the great quantity of hair of the animal covering and diminishing the growth of the wool, the fleece of this sheep cannot be of much value for manufacturing purposes.

The Moldavian Sheep.—These differ from the Wallachian chiefly in the length of the tail, and the form of the horn, which is not so decidedly spiral, and the quality of the fleece. They carry two distinct species of wool, or rather a coat of hair and another of wool. The hair is coarse, and is eleven inches long. The wool is from three to seven inches in length.†

The Moravian Sheep are larger, they have a small head, a back somewhat bowed, and they carry long wool, finer than that yielded by the Wallachian or Moldavian. ‡

Greek Sheep.—The present character and management of the sheep are in keeping with the oppressed and debased state of modern Greece. The Arcadian sheep seem to have retained most of their primitive excellence. They are thirty to thirty-six inches long, and sixteen to eighteen high; weighing from ten to twelve pounds the quarter; the head large, the countenance lively, the back broad, the chest round, the legs small, the wool thick, soft, and much curled. §

The flocks consist of about 500 in each, under the care of three men and a boy.

Only a very small number of sheep are found in any of the islands of the Greek Archipelago, and the inhabitants are principally dependant on Greece or Turkey for the supply of wool and hides, mutton and beef.

* Quarterly Journal of Agriculture, vol. ii. p. 542. Livingston on Sheep, p. 19. Youatt, page 139.

† Youatt, page 136. ‡ Lasteyrie, on Merino Wool, page 194.

§ Agricultural Mag., April, 1802.

Turkish Sheep's Wool.—Mr. Southey says,—

“The following observations more especially apply to the wool shipped from Constantinople, Salonica, and Smyrna. That embarked in the first-named port is usually finer in quality than any other exported from the Turkish dominions, being the production of Romania, of which Thrace and Macedonia form a conspicuous part. The wool grown in Albania, Illyria, Dalmatia, and Greece seldom finds its way to England. It is generally transmitted from Trieste to ports in France.

The Asiatic wools raised in the more remote parts of the Turkish dominions, such as Mesopotamia, Damascus, and indeed all Syrian wool, is, agreeably to the fiscal regulations of the country, shipped at Smyrna. The greater part of the Turkish fleeces have an intermixture of coloured hairs running through them; those of the flocks pastured near Angora are, however, freer from those defects than any other.

The Cyprus Sheep.—The fat-tailed sheep are found in considerable numbers in this island, large in size, and the tail frequently weighing more than fifty pounds: they are of various colours, the white being most esteemed. Many of these sheep are policerate (having more than two horns). They all spring from the frontal bones, the crest of which is elevated in a peculiar manner, in order to form the base. The central horns are usually straight, or somewhat divergating; occasionally they are spiral. The lateral ones assume almost every variety of curve. This multiplicity of horns is not found in any breed intrinsically of much value. It is generally accompanied by great length and coarseness of fleece.*

Sheep of Italy and Sicily.—In vol. i. page 343, and following, and again 392, an account is given of the sheep of these districts.

Sheep of Savoy.—Few sheep are kept in the valleys of the Savoy, as it is necessary to house them during the winter, and no better food can be obtained for them than the dried leaves of trees.†

Swiss Sheep.—The Cantons of Switzerland produce various breeds of sheep, according to the mountainous character of the country, and the richness of the pasture. In some of

* Marten's Travels in Cyprus, vol. i. p. 35, 225. Youatt on Sheep, p. 140.

† Youatt, p. 141.

the valleys there is a sheep not much unlike the long-woolled English breeds, and their wool not much inferior to the Lincolnshire wools.

Consistent, however, with the character of the country, the mountain sheep are the most numerous, and, on the whole, the most profitable: the wool is fine, short, and proper for the card: there are also several flocks of the pure merino, and others between the merino and the native sheep.

The Sheep of Spain.—Having already made long extracts from Bourgoing, as to the sheep of Spain, and their management, (vide vol. i. page 338, and following,) it is not necessary again to give the full information on these subjects from the works of Laborde and Youatt.

Laborde takes the same estimate of the number of sheep in Spain as Bourgoing did, both on the authority of Count de Campomanes. Laborde says, "The quantity of fine wool which Spain annually produces amounts to two hundred and fifty thousand quintals, a moiety of which, after it has been washed, is exported to foreign countries, and a less considerable quantity is sent abroad in the grease.

"By the particular calculations of the Count de Campomanes, this estimate will appear moderate. That able economist informs us, that the migratory flocks afford annually five hundred thousand arobas, or one hundred and twenty-five thousand quintals (129,114 cwts.) of fine wool; that 60,000 are manufactured in the country, and the other exported.

"The number of migratory sheep is estimated at five millions, and eight millions of stationary sheep. Supposing the five millions of migratory sheep produce 125,000 quintals of fine wool, it may certainly be allowed that the eight millions of stationary sheep will yield at least an equal quantity, besides the coarse wool, the exportation of which is prohibited.

"The amount, then, of wool annually exported from Spain will be 125,000 quintals of washed wool, and a hundred and five thousand quintals of wool in grease. The city of Burgos is the staple for all wool exported by the ports of San Andero, Laredo, San Sebastian, and Bilboa, and the remainder is shipped in the ports and harbours of Barcelona, Grao, Cullera, Alicant, Carthagena, and Malaga on the Mediterranean Sea. A portion also passes by Cadiz and Seville." *

* Laborde's View of Spain, vol. 4, p. 394.

According to Laborde, therefore, and founded upon the calculations of the Count de Campomanes, the quantity of wool exported from Spain, about the year 1809, amounted to 5,750,000 lbs. This must be much under-rated, for the importation of wool from Spain into England in 1800 was 10,291,314 lbs., though that was an extraordinary importation, but the average importation was about five millions of pounds. Youatt says, "The number of migratory sheep is calculated at ten millions, and the average weight of the fleece of the ram is eight pounds, and of the ewe five pounds. The number of stationary sheep exceeds considerably the number of migratory sheep, and consequently the produce of wool in Spain cannot be much short of one hundred and twenty millions of pounds."

The Sheep of France.—Considerable extracts have already been made from Trimmer in this volume, p. 256 and following. Trimmer's observations upon French sheep, and particularly the flock of Rambouillet, are perhaps just; but Youatt enters more into detail, commencing with those of Picardy; they have there a cross between the Romney Marsh sheep and the sheep of Flanders. These are altogether the largest and finest sheep in France, the fleece weighing from 6 to 8 lbs. In Normandy they have also a large breed of sheep. In La Maine there are the long-leg and thin carcase, and coarse fleece of the Gallic long-woolled sheep. In Bretagne, Poitou, Guienne, and Gascony, the character of the sheep is essentially changed; they have the smaller short-woolled breed of various qualities, and some of them exceedingly valuable. In Navarre and Bearn, there are the neglected sheep of the mountains, with short fine wool, too much mixed, and overrun by a coarse species of wool called kemps; the fleeces weigh from eight to ten pounds. In the Lower Pyrenees, the fleece weighs from three to five pounds. In the Central or High Pyrenees the sheep bear considerable resemblance to the Norfolk, but about Roussillon a short and fine-woolled sheep is found, not unlike, and scarcely inferior to the merino. The fine-woolled sheep are found in pursuing the line of coast by Perpignan into Languedoc, and the fleece grown about Beziers is highly esteemed. Passing by the beautiful country of Montpellier and the mouth of the Rhone, the traveller can study the fine sheep, and the sheep husbandry of Arles. The

district of Crau, in length nearly eighteen miles, and about half as much in breadth, extends from the mountains towards the sea coast. It is one uniform, gentle declivity; in no part of it is there the slightest portion of stagnant water, and not a tree or bush is to be seen; the soil is consequently dry, and apparently barren enough, but the herbage which it affords is that which peculiarly suits the sheep. No less than 130,000 sheep graze on this declivity.

"The Camarque and Le Plain du Bourg are two other districts of Arles abounding with sheep; they produce nearly the same herbage. About 112,000 sheep are pastured during the winter in these districts. All these sheep are migratory. In the spring of the year they are driven from the plains of Arles, and the Delta of the Rhone, towards the Alps, which divide Provence and Dauphiné from Italy. The migration commences in May, and the sheep return to their winter quarters in November.

"These sheep are the property of the agriculturists of Arles and the neighbouring districts, and the migration is not only sanctioned by custom from time immemorial, but by particular laws, which give them, and limit them to, a road thirty-six feet in breadth. The flocks from the various districts of Arles, and the southern parts of Provence, are collected together, and driven in troops of from 10,000 to 40,000 sheep. To every thousand sheep three shepherds are allowed, each of whom has his dog, and in the centre of the flock is a troop of asses, carrying the provisions and baggage. One shepherd is chosen by his fellows to direct the march, the expenses of which are defrayed from a common purse, of which he is the bearer. He travels in the centre, and thence transmits his orders, and issues the daily allowance of provisions, and listens to and determines on the complaints of the farmers in the neighbourhood of the road, if any damage has been accidentally or wilfully done, and punishes the shepherds for any offence committed.

"The sheep are led by goats, which are trained for the purpose, and have bells round their necks. The discipline in which these animals are kept, and the intelligence which they display, is very great. They halt or proceed at the direction of the shepherd. The journey usually lasts from twenty

to thirty days. When they arrive at the mountains, each shepherd has his appointed boundary marked out; they sleep with their flocks in the open air, and live almost entirely on bread and goats' milk." *

"Returning through the central districts of France, the fine woolled breeds of the southern provinces have their influence on the sheep for a considerable distance northwards, and almost all the wool is in good repute. In Dauphiné it is yet finer than in most of the central provinces of France south. The effect of a cross with the merinos is sufficiently evident; but at length the breed of sheep, cultivated principally, or almost entirely for wool, then begins to disappear, and a larger, coarser, but on the whole not less profitable animal is substituted. Both breeds are found in Burgundy. In Auvergne is a mountain breed, with black and white heads, little esteemed. In Berri there is a considerable portion of fine wool, but many of the sheep are fattened for the Paris market, and the wool is consequently deteriorated. In Champagne the wool, although long, is tolerably fine; but approaching Rheims, and the commencement of the forest of Ardennes, the sheep are small, and the fleece coarse. Lorraine is almost exclusively a grazing country, the principal part of the sheep being bought in Alsace, or in the German markets.

"The number of sheep in the whole of France was calculated in 1825 to be more than thirty millions, but a considerable diminution has taken place since that period. The division of property, and the separation of large farms among several proprietors, have tended still more to lessen the number of sheep." †

The Sheep of Prussia.—An account of the introduction of merino sheep into Prussia is given in vol. ii. page 43. The Prussian Government have spared no exertion to encourage and extend that breed; and from the statistics periodically published of the trade and production of that kingdom, and from Wagner's account of sheep, wool, and the woollen manufactures, the vast importance of sheep, with their constant increase, is most evident.

* Annales de l'Agri. Française, art. Encyclopædia Londinenses.

† Youatt, page 158, &c.

STATEMENT OF THE NUMBER OF MERINO SHEEP, AND THE
MOST IMPROVED BREEDS, IN PRUSSIA.

	1831.	1834.	1837.	1840.
Prussia Proper ..	435,061	549,247	853,909	1,026,659
Posen	192,412	244,622	422,424	498,692
Brandenburg ...	446,778	523,546	597,922	644,849
Pomerania	362,050	498,295	608,065	699,088
Schleswick	570,311	608,514	734,566	836,395
Prussian Saxony	361,234	373,111	346,744	364,370
Westphalia	14,193	17,941	27,811	29,275
Rhone provinces	15,132	15,277	26,028	20,622
Total...	2,397,171	2,831,553	3,617,469	4,119,950

NUMBER OF HALF-IMPROVED SHEEP IN PRUSSIA.

	1831.	1834.	1837.	1840.
Prussia.....	356,514	367,993	461,568	568,471
Posen	776,265	911,315	1,191,985	1,410,710
Brandenburg ...	908,174	1,050,832	1,225,660	1,293,234
Pomerania	691,211	795,203	958,657	1,058,035
Schleswick	1,454,574	1,481,232	1,719,675	1,868,712
Prussian Saxony	945,375	1,025,403	1,328,771	1,358,399
Westphalia	80,252	101,377	143,051	135,630
Rhone provinces	89,020	105,978	135,861	153,561
Total...	5,301,385	5,839,333	7,165,088	7,846,752

NUMBER OF NATIVE OR COMMON SHEEP IN PRUSSIA.

	1831.	1834.	1837.	1840.
Prussia.....	757,493	696,053	824,100	921,930
Posen	697,543	567,525	550,611	546,009
Brandenburg ...	578,934	619,523	666,281	689,512
Pomerania	519,561	533,384	551,367	607,477
Schleswick	357,268	309,469	315,058	319,880
Prussian Saxony	509,084	506,824	495,237	495,566
Westphalia	246,595	318,871	379,347	359,267
Rhone provinces	386,569	425,375	446,894	437,675
Total ...	4,053,047	3,977,024	4,228,895	4,377,316

TOTAL NUMBER OF SHEEP IN PRUSSIA.

	1831.	1834.	1837.	1840.
Sheep	11,751,603	12,647,910	15,011,452	16,344,018

362 PRUSSIAN SALES OF WOOL, IMPORTS, EXPORTS, &c.

QUANTITIES OF WOOL SOLD AT THE FOLLOWING FAIRS.

	1836.	1837.	1838.	1839.	1840.	1841.
Berlin Cwt.	40,243	49,668	41,032	48,980	51,703	72,000
Breslau	65,576	62,359	58,401	55,600	66,000	68,000
Coblentz	"	"	449	480	545	732
Koenigsberg	4,318	6,371	7,390	7,868	8,344	7,183
Landaberg ...	16,060	5,045	11,338	14,800	10,370	13,354
Magdeburg	5,852	5,766	7,339	8,365	6,894	6,000
Muhlhausen	185	43	360	573	500	1,192
Paderborn ...	2,945	3,239	2,405	2,570	2,965	3,075
Posen	"	6,500	9,086	10,048	14,334	21,013
Stettin	19,038	26,456	15,158	21,964	26,325	23,310
Stralsund ...	1,405	1,000	1,800	1,500	1,100	2,000
Total ...	155,772	165,458	144,748	170,546	189,580	214,828

EXPORTS AND TRANSITS OF WOOL IN THE PRUSSIAN LEAGUE.

	1834.	1835.	1836.	1837.	1838.	1839.	1840.
Exports Cwt.	126,780	120,490	178,171	133,279	190,971	145,084	148,880
Transits	51,804	108,829	120,571	69,321	159,731	121,716	113,907

Imports, Exports, and Transits of Woolen Goods, in the Prussian League.		Woolen and Worsted Yarns.	Woolen Goods and Hosiery.	Manufactures of Wool & Hair.	Total.
		Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
1832	Imports	2,236	14,796	409	17,441
	Exports	717	49,773	564	50,054
	Transits	2,958	64,776	560	68,284
1833	Imports	3,067	12,224	431	15,722
	Exports	2,262	46,295	439	49,096
	Transits	7,408	58,921	565	64,894
1834	Imports	2,381	11,803	166	14,350
	Exports	1,471	51,173	481	53,125
	Transits	2,120	35,529	511	38,061
1835	Imports	2,540	13,726	172	16,438
	Exports	2,528	60,251	571	63,350
	Transits	2,325	32,311	307	34,943
1836	Imports	3,798	12,288	223	16,309
	Exports	2,404	70,461	615	73,480
	Transits	1,302	20,007	519	21,348
1837	Imports	3,702	17,634	183	21,519
	Exports	1,929	68,767	729	71,425
	Transits	1,275	19,623	85	20,983
1838	Imports	5,010	20,756	339	26,105
	Exports	2,916	63,186	839	66,941
	Transits	1,614	22,833	102	24,549
1839	Imports	4,472	25,012	323	29,807
	Exports	5,232	63,524	699	69,455
	Transits	1,583	22,563	500	24,701
1840	Imports	5,917	26,558	293	32,868
	Exports	3,289	62,773	789	66,911
	Transits	1,715	20,750	154	22,619

The Saxon Sheep.—The Elector of Saxony ranks amongst the first who patriotically and wisely devoted himself to the improvement of the inferior breed of sheep which pastured on the neglected plains of Germany. The indigenous Saxon breed resembled that of the neighbouring states; it consisted of two distinct varieties, one bearing a wool of some value, and the other yielding a fleece applicable only to the coarsest manufactures.

In 1765, at the close of the seven years' war, the Elector of Saxony imported one hundred rams and two hundred ewes from the most improved Spanish flocks, and placed part of them on his own farms, in the neighbourhood of Dresden; this portion he kept unmixed. He endeavoured to ascertain how far the pure Spanish breed could be naturalized in Saxony; the other part was distributed on other farms, and devoted to the improvement of the Saxon sheep.

It was soon sufficiently evident to the enlightened agriculturist that the merinos did not degenerate in Saxony; many parcels of these wools were not inferior to the choicest fleeces of Leon. The best breed of the native Saxons was also materially improved. The prejudice against every innovation on the practice of their ancestors was, however, as strong in Saxony as elsewhere, and the majority of the sheep-masters were averse to the improvement; but the Elector was determined to accomplish his object. He imported an additional number of Spanish sheep, and compelled those who occupied land under him to buy a certain number of merino sheep.

An account has been already given of the management of sheep in Saxony.

Similar results may be given of the sheep of other states. Of the number of sheep there are no statistical accounts, except of Hungary, where they are estimated at seven millions, of which three millions are the exclusive property of Prince Esterhazy.*

"Hungary.—Wool is at present one of the chief articles of Hungarian commerce, chiefly because its exportation is untaxed. It is scarcely twenty years since the merino sheep has been introduced into Hungary, and the quantity of fine wool

* Youatt, page 17.

now produced may be judged from the fact, that at the last Pest fair there were no less than 80,000 centners offered for sale. The greater part of this wool is bought by the German merchants, and much of it is said ultimately to go to England, after having passed by land quite across Europe to Hamburg. Of late years, a few English merchants have made their appearance at the Pest fairs, which are held four times in the year, but I have not yet heard of any wool being sent to England by the Danube and Black Sea.

“Besides the merino wool, there is a considerable quantity of long coarse wool grown, which is chiefly sold for the manufacture of thick white cloth, worn by the peasants, and which might be found very serviceable for the carpet fabrics.”

“TRAVELS IN HUNGARY AND TRANSYLVANIA. By JOHN
“PAGET, Esq. 1839.”

“When the sun is pouring his hottest beams upon the plain, so that the sands seem to dance with the glowing heat, it is interesting to watch the poor sheep, and to observe the manner in which nature teaches them to supply the place of the shady wood. The whole flock ceases from feeding, and collects in a close circle, where each places his head in the shade formed by the body of his neighbour, and thus they protect themselves from a danger which otherwise might be fatal.

“*Pushta*.—The part of the plains left for pasture is occupied during the summer months by vast herds of cattle and flocks of sheep. In winter they are either brought to the villages, or stabled in those solitary farms which form a striking peculiarity of the *Pushta*. Far from any beaten tract or village, the traveller observes a collection of buildings, enclosed by a thick wall of mud or straw, with an arched gateway, and containing a large court, surrounded by stables, barns, sheep-houses, and a shepherd's cottage or two. Here the sheep and cattle are wintered, for the sake of saving the draught of fodder; and here their guardians often remain the whole winter, without exchanging a word with any human beings other than those composing their little domestic community, for the trackless snow renders communication extremely difficult. In summer the shepherd's life is even more monotonous; he often remains

out for months together, till winter comes on and obliges him to seek shelter. Almost all the inhabitants of the plains, except some few German colonists, are true Magyars, and nothing is so well adapted to their disposition as the half-slothful, half-adventurous life of a Juhusz or Puszta shepherd. His dress is the loose linen drawers and short shirt, descending scarcely below the breast, and is sometimes surrounded by the gaily embroidered waistcoat or jacket. His feet are protected by long boots, or sandals, and his head by a hat of more than Quaker proportions, below which hang two broad plaits of hair. The turned-up brim of the hat serves him for a drinking cup, while the bag, which hangs from a belt round his neck, contains the bread and bacon which form his scanty meal. Over the whole is generally cast the bunda, or hairy cloak. I must not forget, however, that his shirt and drawers are black. Before he takes the field for the season, he carefully boils these two articles of dress in hog's lard, and, anointing his body and head with the same precious unguent, his toilette is finished for the next six months. I feel assured that the penetration of my English readers will never dive into the motives for all this careful preparation, and that they will be little inclined to believe me if I tell them it is cleanliness! Yet so it is; for the lard effectually protects him against a host of little enemies by which he would otherwise be covered. To complete his accoutrements, he must have a short pipe stuck in his boot-top; and in his belt a tobacco bag, with a collection of instruments,—not less incomprehensible to the uninitiated than the attendants of a Scotch mull,—intended for striking fire, clearing the pipe, stopping the tobacco, pricking the ashes, and I know not what fumitory refinements beside.

“But the bunda deserves a more special notice, for in the whole annals of tailoring, no garment ever existed better adapted to its purpose, and, therefore, more worthy of all eulogy, than the Hungarian bunda. It is made in the form of a close cloak without collar, and is composed of the skins of the long-woolled Hungarian sheep, which undergo some slight process of cleaning, but by no means sufficient to prevent them retaining an odour not of the most aromatic kind. The wool is left perfectly in its natural state. The leathern

side is often very prettily ornamented; the seams are sewed with various-coloured leather cords, bouquets of flowers are worked in silk on the sides and borders, and a black lamb-skin from Transylvania adorns the upper part of the back in the form of a cape. To the Puszta shepherd the bunda is his house, his bed, his all. Rarely, in the hottest day of summer, or the coldest of winter, does he forsake his woolly friend. He needs no change of dress; a turn of his bunda renders him insensible to either extreme. Should the sun annoy him as he lazily watches his dogs hunting the field mice, or the careless marmot, to supply their hungry stomachs—for, like their masters, they trust chiefly to their own talents for their support,—he turns the wool outside, and, either from philosophy or experience, knows how safely it protects him from the heat. Should early snow on the Carpathians send him chilling blasts before the pastures are eaten bare, and before he can return to his village, he a second time turns the bunda, but now with the wool inside, and again trusts to the non-conducting power of his shaggy coat. The gaba, woven of coarse wool, presenting much the same appearance, is a cheap, but poor imitation of the bunda.

“ But the heart of that man is even more curious than his outward coverture. He has a system of morality peculiar to himself. I know not why, but the nomadic habits seem to confuse ideas of property most strangely in the heads of those accustomed to them: nomadic nations are always thieves; and the Maggar Indian, more than half nomadic, is certainly more than half a rogue. Not that he would break into a house, or that you or I, gentle reader, need have the least fear in his society; but there are certain persons and things, which he considers fair game whenever he can meet with them.

“ I remember a friend regretting that he could not show us his head shepherd, who, he said, was a remarkably fine fellow, and well worthy of being sketched as a model of his class.

“ ‘ When will poor János return?’ inquired the Count of his steward, ‘ I should like the Englishmen to see him.’

“ ‘ In about six months,’ was his reply.

“ I asked the cause of this absence.

“ ‘Why, I believe he robbed and beat a Jew, and they have adjudged him twelve months’ imprisonment for it.’

“ ‘Of course you will not receive such a man into your service again?’

“ ‘—— teremtette! Why not?’ rejoined the Count. ‘He was the best shepherd I had, and esteemed quite a Solomon among his fellows for the wisdom and justice with which he settled their disputes. He was the shepherds’ arbitrator for miles round. As for Jews and German Handwerksburschen, János regards them as *feræ naturæ*, to be robbed and beaten by every honest Maggar whenever he could meet with them. He protested that had he killed the Jew, the punishment had been too severe.’

“ ‘In fact, robbery is a part of the shepherd’s duty; and, according to his dexterity in preventing others from robbing him, or in robbing others in return when robbed, is he valued by his master, and respected by his companions. He leaves the farm house with a certain number of sheep; these he must bring back or be punished: if any be stolen, retaliation is his only remedy; and should it not happen to fall on the right head—justice is blind—more’s the pity. If he robs for his master, it is but natural he should sometimes do so for himself. To supply his larder with somewhat better fare than his maize and a scanty portion of bacon affords, a straggler from a neighbour’s flock is no unwelcome addition.

“ ‘It would be unjust to quit the subject of the Puszta shepherd without making due and honourable mention of his constant companion and friend, the juhász-hutya—the Hungarian shepherd-dog. The shepherd dog is commonly white, sometimes inclined to a reddish brown, and about the size of our Newfoundland dog. His sharp nose, short erect ears, shaggy coat, and bushy tail give him much the appearance of a wolf; indeed, so great is the resemblance, that I have known a Hungarian gentleman mistake a wolf for one of his own dogs. Except to their masters, they are so savage, that it is unsafe for a stranger to enter the court yard of a Hungarian cottage without arms. I speak from experience; for as I was walking through the yard of a post-house, where some of these dogs were lying about, apparently asleep, one of them crept after me, and inflicted a severe wound on my leg, of which I still

bear the marks. Before I could turn round, the dog was already far off; for, like the wolf, they bite by snapping, but never hang to the object like the bull dog or mastiff. Their sagacity in driving and guarding the sheep and cattle, and their courage in protecting them from wolves or robbers, are highly praised; and the shepherd is so well aware of the value of a good one, that it is difficult to induce him to part with it.”*

PRINCE ESTERHAZY.—“The estates of Prince Esterhazy are said to be equal to the Kingdom of Wurtemberg in size; it is certain they contain one hundred and thirty villages, forty towns, and thirty-four castles! The annual value from such vast possessions is said, however, not to amount to £150,000 per annum, though it is capable of considerable increase.

“I remember some years since an anecdote going the round of the papers, to the effect that Prince Esterhazy had astonished one of our great agriculturists, who had shown him his flock of two thousand sheep, and asked with some little pride, if he could show as many, by telling him that he had more shepherds than the other sheep! By a reckoning made on the spot with one well acquainted with his affairs, we found the saying literally true. The winter flock of merinos is estimated at 250,000, to every hundred of which one shepherd is allowed, thus making the number of shepherds 2,500.”†

“*Pest.*—An invitation to spend a few days with the Count S—— at Z——, a village some distance from Pest, when the steward showed us over the farm yard, where we found a large flock of merino sheep collected in hovels, to protect them from the heat of the mid-day sun. The entire flock amounted to about 20,000, of course scattered over different estates. At the present moment this is a most profitable branch of agricultural industry; it requires little labour, the produce is certain of sale, and it pays no duty on exportation.

“The chief danger in the cultivation of the merinos is from disease, caused by unhealthy or over-feeding. On very rich pastures they allow them to graze only a few hours each day.

* Hungary and Transylvania, by John Paget, Esq., vol. ii. p. 12 to 19.

† Paget's Hungary, vol. i. p. 46.

During the four winter months they are kept entirely under cover, where the temperature is accurately regulated by the thermometer, and fed on dry food, consisting of corn, straw, potatoes, and dried leaves, the latter being found a cheap and good substitute for hay. Nothing can be more miserable in appearance than the merino sheep, every other point being sacrificed to the wool. The flesh is said to be coarse ; indeed all mutton is held in such low esteem here, that it is difficult to get it.*”

* Paget's Travels, page 282.

CHAPTER XI.

BRITISH SHEEP—New Leicester Sheep—South Down Sheep, their effect on the English fleece—Lord Western's Anglo-Merino Sheep.

British Sheep.

“As a lowland sheep, and destined to live on good pasture, the *New Leicester* is without a rival: in fact, he has improved, if he has not given the principal value to all the other long-woolled sheep.

“The head should be hornless, long, small, tapering towards the muzzle, and projecting horizontally forwards. The eyes prominent, but with a quiet expression. The ears thin, rather long, and directed backwards. The neck full and broad at its base, where it proceeds from the chest, but gradually tapering towards the head, and being particularly fine at the junction of the head and neck; the neck seeming to project straight from the chest, so that there is, with the slightest possible deviation, one continued horizontal line from the rump to the poll. The breast broad and full, the shoulders also broad and round, and no uneven or angular formation where the shoulders join either the neck or the back, particularly no rising of the withers, or hollow behind the situation of these bones. The arm fleshy through its whole extent, and even down to the knee. The bones of the legs small, standing wide apart, no looseness of skin about them, and comparatively bare of wool. The chest and barrel at once deep and round, the ribs forming a considerable arch from the spine, so as in some cases, and especially when the animal is in good condition, to make the apparent width of the chest even greater than the depth. The barrel ribbed well home, no irregularity of line on the back or the belly, but on the side the carcase very gradually diminishing in width towards the rump. The quarters long and full, and, as with the fore legs, the muscles extending down to the hock; the thighs also wide and full. The legs of a moderate length,



Head of a young specimen of *Strophomena* near *Lewisi* & *Lindstedti* by him at the Smithsonian Show 1887

[illegible][illegible]

1. The first step is to identify the problem. This involves understanding the current situation and what needs to be changed.

The following table shows the results of the survey. The first column lists the countries, and the second column shows the percentage of respondents who answered "Yes" to the question "Do you think that the use of nuclear energy is a safe way to produce electricity?"

Country	Yes (%)
France	78
Germany	65
Sweden	82
Switzerland	70
Belgium	68
Netherlands	60
Denmark	55
Austria	62
Italy	58
Spain	52
Portugal	48
Greece	45
Turkey	42
Japan	75
USA	68
UK	60
Canada	72
Australia	58
New Zealand	55
South Africa	50
India	45
China	40
South Korea	55
Singapore	50
Malaysia	48
Indonesia	45
Philippines	42
Thailand	40
Vietnam	38
Laos	35
Myanmar	32
Burma	30
Cambodia	28
Sierra Leone	25
Liberia	22
Ivory Coast	20
Ghana	18
Senegal	15
Niger	12
Chad	10
Sudan	8
Egypt	6
Libya	4
Algeria	2
Morocco	1
Tunisia	0



the pelt also moderately thin, but soft and elastic, and covered with a good quantity of white wool, not so long as in some breeds, but considerably finer.

"This account combines the main excellences of both Bakewell's own breed and Culley's variety or improvement upon it. It is precisely the form for a sheep provided with plenty of good food, and without any great distance to travel, or exertion to make in gathering it."

"The principal recommendations of this breed are its beauty and its fulness of form, comprising, in the same apparent dimensions, greater weight than any other sheep, an early maturity, and a propensity to fatten, equalled by no other breed; a diminution in the proportion of offal, and the return of most money for the quantity of food consumed.†

"The next is the hill sheep, adapted to more elevated situations and shorter feed in the natural and permanent pastures; able also to travel without detriment a considerable distance to the fold and to the Downs. There can be no hesitation in fixing on the *South Down* as the model here.

"The following is the substance of the description of this sheep by Mr. Ellman, who, if he may not be considered like Mr. Bakewell with regard to the Leicester, as founder of the breed, yet contributed more than other man to its present improvement and value.

"The head small and hornless; the face speckled or grey, and neither too long nor too short. The lips thin, and the space between the nose and eyes narrow. The under jaw, or chap, fine and thin; the ears tolerably wide, and well covered with wool, and the forehead also, and the whole space between the ears well protected by it, as a defence from the fly.

"The eye full and bright, but not prominent. The orbits of the eye—the eye-cap, or bone—not too projecting, that it may not form a fatal obstacle to lambing.

"The neck of a medium length, thin towards the head, but enlarging towards the shoulders, where it should be broad and high, and straight in its whole course above and below.

* Vide print of Mr. Chamberlain's New Leicester prize sheep.

† Culley on Live Stock, and Marshall's Midland Counties.

The breast should be wide, deep, and projecting forwards between the fore legs, indicating a good constitution, and a disposition to thrive. Corresponding with this, the shoulders should be on a level with the back, and not too wide above; they should bow outwards from the top to the breast, indicating a springing rib beneath, and leaving room for it.

“ The ribs coming out horizontally from the spine, and extending far backward, and the last rib projecting more than the others: the back flat from the shoulders to the setting on of the tail: the loin broad and flat, the rump long and broad, and the tail set on high and nearly on a level with the spine. The hips wide, the space between them and the last rib on either side as narrow as possible, and the ribs generally presenting a circular form like a barrel.

“ The belly is straight as the back.

“ The legs neither too long nor too short. The fore legs straight from the breast to the foot; not bending inwards at the knee, and standing far apart both before and behind, the hocks having a direction rather outward, and the twist, or the meeting of the thighs behind, being particularly full; the bones fine, yet having no appearance of weakness, and of a speckled or dark colour.

“ The belly well defended with wool, coming down before and behind to the knee and to the hock; the wool short, close, curled, and fine, and free from spiry projecting fibres.* †

“ *The South Down* is adapted to almost any situation in the midland part of England; it has a patience of occasional short keep, and an endurance of hard stocking equal to any other sheep; an early maturity scarcely inferior to that of the Leicesters, and the flesh finely grained, and of peculiarly good flavour.‡

“ The average dead weight of the South Down wether varies from eight to eleven stones; but Mr. Grantham exhibited a pen of three sheep in the show of the Smithfield club in 1835, one of them weighing 20 st. 3 lbs., a second 20 st. 6 lbs., and a third 21 st. ||

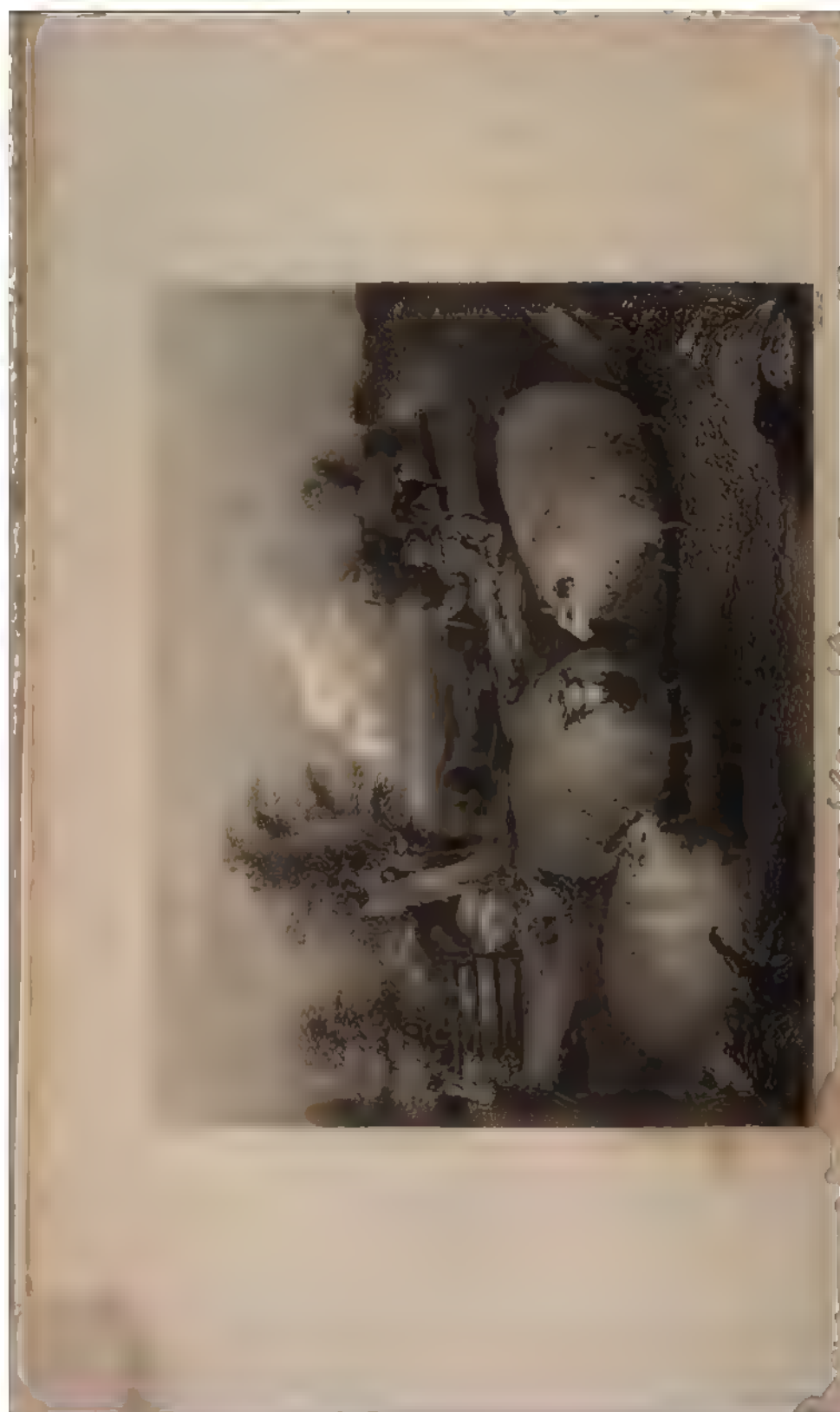
* Vide the print of Mr. Webb's South Down, the frontispiece to the volume.

† Youatt, page 111.

‡ Baxter's Agricultural Library, p. 453.

|| Vide the print of Mr. Grantham's South Down Sheep.







“ The inhabitant of a still more elevated region and a colder clime, occasionally exposed to the severest storms, yet enduring them, and thriving, will complete the list of models ; and among the British sheep the *Cheviots* most deserve to be selected.

“ A description of them by a writer in the *Farmer's Magazine*, who had studied and known them well, is selected as a faithful representation of what they were, or what a good Cheviot should be, even before this breed had received the last improvement of the Leicesters.

“ The head polled, bare, and clean, with jaw bone of good length. Ears not too short. Countenance of not too dark a colour. Neck full, round, and not too long, well covered with wool, and without any beard or coarse wool beneath. Shoulders deep, full, and wide set above. Chest full and open. Chine long, but not too long ; straight, broad, and wide across the fillets. Hams round and plump. Body in general round and full, and not too deep, or flat in the ribs or flanks. Legs clean, of a proportionate length, and well clad with wool to the knee joints and hocks. Fleece fine, close, short, and thick set ; of a medium length of pile, without hairs at the bottom, and not curled on the shoulders, and with as little coarse wool as possible on the hips, tail, and belly. A sheep possessing these properties in an eminent degree may be considered as the most perfect model of the Cheviot breed.” * †

The change which has taken place in the sheep of different counties in England by the introduction of the New Leicester and South Down breeds will be best ascertained by reference to the Report of the Highland Society in 1792, (vide vol. i. page 257,) and comparing the weight of the fleeces with those given by Mr. Luccock in 1800, Mr. Hubbard in 1828, and the present weight, according to the information of experienced and intelligent wool dealers, and the result of which is in the following table :—

* *Farmer's Magazine*, May, 1810, p. 143.

† *Youatt*, p. 110. and upwards.

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF FLEECES IN ENGLAND, 1800, 1828, & 1840.

COUNTY.	LUCCOCK. 1800.	HUBBARD. 1828.	1840.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Northumberland	5½	5½	} 5½
Ditto, Leicester			
Ditto, Half-bred Cheviot and Leicester			
Ditto, Cheviot..			
Durham	5	5½	6½
Ditto.....	9	8½	7
Cumberland.....	3¾	5	4
Westmoreland.....	3½	5	4
Yorkshire, West Riding.....	various	5½	5½
Ditto, East Riding	5	6	6½
Ditto, North Riding.....	various	5	6
Ditto, Holderness	8	8	8
Ditto, other parts	8	8	7½
Lancaster.....	3½	4½	4½
Cheshire	various	4½	4
Derbyshire	3	6	6
Nottingham.....	various	6½	6½
Lincolns	5½	6	6
Ditto, rich land....	9	9	} 8½
Ditto, Marshes.....	8	8	
Ditto, miscellaneous	8	6	
Rutland.....	5	6	6½
Northampton ...	6	6	6
Warwick	3	6	5
Ditto	5	6	6
Leicester ...	3½	6	6
Ditto	7	6	6
Oxford.....	various	5	5½
Bucks	3	5	5
Berks	3½	3½	3½
Gloucester.....	various	6	5½
Ditto	8	6	7
Somerset	4½	5	4
Worcester	3½	4¾	5
Monmouth	various	4	3
Hereford.....	2	4	4½
Salop.....	2½	4	4½
Stafford	2	4½	} 5
Ditto	7	4½	
Bedford.....	5	5	5
Huntingdon.....	4½	5½	5½
Ditto	7	5½	5½
Cambridge	4	4½	4½

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF FLEECES IN ENGLAND, 1800, 1828, & 1840.

COUNTY.	LUCOCK.	HUBBARD.	
	1800. lbs.	1828. lbs.	1840. lbs.
Cambridge	8	8	7½
Suffolk	2½	4½	{ Short 4 Long 5
Norfolk	2	4½	{ Short 4½ ½-bred 4½
Ditto	7	7½	Marsh 7½
Essex	3	4	4
Ditto, long			5
Herts	4½	5	5
Middlesex	4	5	5
Kent	3½	4½	4½
Ditto, Romney Marsh	7	6½	5
Ditto, the Marshes	7	6½	5
Surrey	3	3½	4
Sussex Downs	2	3	3
Ditto Lowlands....	3	3	4
Hants	3	3	3
Isle of Wight	3½	4	4
Wilts Downs	2½	2½	3½
Wilts Pasture.	3	4	4
Dorset	3	3½	4
Devon	4	5	5
Ditto	8	8	7
Cornwall	4	7	6

Merino Breed.—Lord Western has paid the greatest attention to this breed of sheep, and has been unwearied in his exertions to improve the carcase, and render the wool applicable to the finest fancy articles of the worsted manufacture, beautiful specimens of which his lordship has sent to the compiler; one a merino, the other mixed with silk in imitation of China crape, manufactured at Norwich. He has also sent samples of Anglo-merino wool.

Lord Western has done the compiler the honour of addressing to him a brief history of the origin of his flocks, his method of management, and some useful observations on those points of form and character, which should be studied for the improvement of the flocks, being applicable to every other breed of sheep. His lordship has further conceived the idea of uniting by crosses the qualities of the long-woolled English sheep and the pure merinos, and thus forming a new breed of

LORD WESTERN'S MERINO

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF FLEECES IN ENGLAND

COUNTY.	1890	
	1890	1891
Cambridge	5	
Suffolk	3½	
Norfolk	3	
Ditto	3	
Essex	3	
Ditto, long		
Herts	4½	
Middlesex	4	
Kent	4½	
Ditto, Romney Marsh		
Ditto, the Marshes		
Surrey	4	
Sussex Downs	4	
Ditto Lowlands	4	
Hants	4	
Isle of Wight	4	
Wilts Downs	4	
Wilts Pasture	4	
Dorset	4	
Devon	4	
Ditto	4	
Cornwall	4	

Merino Breed.

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compiler; one
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Lord W
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sheep, which he denominates Anglo-merinos. In support of this arduous undertaking, he has given reasons in a letter to Earl Spencer, which are certainly entitled to great weight, and he has practically succeeded, both in the wool and carcass, beyond, it is believed, the expectation of the Noble Earl, and most other sheep breeders, as appears in his letters and the samples of wool.

His lordship has given an engraving of a group of the Anglo-merinos, from portraits of what were exhibited at the Smithfield meeting in 1838, and which is here inserted. He has had a considerable demand for the colonies and the East Indies for his rams of this breed, to cross with the Saxon merino ewes, in order to improve the carcass, and to give quantity of wool for the fine worsted trade.

LETTER FROM LORD WESTERN TO EARL SPENCER.

“ My dear Lord Spencer,

“ In addressing you as President of the great Agricultural Society of England, I anticipate, with considerable anxiety, the charge of presumption which the subject matter of my letter may incur. I know, indeed, that *you* will put a favourable construction upon it, as your friendship will lead you to appreciate the motive. But I think that the representation of the attempt which I am about to communicate, will, perhaps justly, subject me to the notion of being a visionary projector in that one particular line of farming to which I have, as you know, devoted great attention.

“ I will then, at once, announce to your lordship that I have, for the last four years, applied myself to an experiment of the possibility of creating a *new and distinct breed of sheep* ; and, as far as I have gone, the result has encouraged the attempt ; and of this result I intend to exhibit a specimen at the next Smithfield show. I shall there exhibit three shearling wethers of my so created breed, and three two-shear wethers ; and I earnestly request the notice of your lordship and of the other members of the society to their examination.

“ I have a confidence in doing this, because I have not only my own experience, and the opinion of many other most able judges, as to the beauty of their symmetry, and their possession of all the qualities which are generally most admired in the living animals ; but I shall also, without hesitation, submit them to public inspection, when slaughtered. I beg you to understand, that, in thus



attempting to create a distinct variety among the actual different breeds, I have no idea of disparaging those highly valuable breeds which have been so much improved in the course of the last sixty years; or of impugning the science, the skill, and the energy of many most intelligent persons in various ranks of life, not excepting the most exalted. But I am of opinion that we should never stand still, but rather be always aiming at new objects; and I sincerely think that that for which I am now striving is not absolutely utopian. There is plenty of room for the introduction of another breed of animals, without trenching upon, or superseding in any way, those which are valuable and now in existence. My object, then, may be familiarly stated to be, the placing *merino wool* upon a *Leicester carcase*: perhaps not exactly resembling the short finest clothing wool of Saxony, but a fine combing wool superior to any that has heretofore been grown. It is possible that similar attempts have been made by other persons, but they have not been carried out upon any general principle of extensive application, to my knowledge.

"The means which I use are an intermixture of various breeds of long wool sheep with the pure merino; the latter of which, by the attentive efforts of many years, I have so improved in carcase, that they have become an exceedingly different animal, in point of substance and size, to those which are generally seen. I have now a flock of about a hundred breeding ewes of this crossed species, and they certainly so closely resemble each other in their countenances, the appearance of their wools, and their relative sizes, that no very variable character can be discerned among them; certainly, I may say, quite as little as is to be found in other flocks, which are stated to be of a pure specific breed.

"With a view to some justification of my purpose, I beg to direct the attention of your lordship to the breed of the new Leicester sheep. The very name which they have universally acquired, namely, that of the *new* breed, implies a modern origin. I apprehend that a distinct breed may be created in three ways:—Firstly, by the selection of one or two extraordinary animals—variations from their class—which may arise, as in the vegetable, so in the animal world; and from thence, if well followed up, a new race may be formed. Another mode is, the crossing of various animals; and, among other reports, I have heard that the *new* Leicester were formed by crosses of the heavy long wool sheep and the Hereford Ryland. I cannot pretend to vouch for the accuracy of this report, but I am not sure that I should not date from thence the origin of my present effort.

"A third mode is, by engrafting a particular breed upon a native

stock, in a way which bears some analogy to the engrafting a peach upon a crab stalk. For example, with a view of creating a merino flock out of any inferior breed of sheep, put a merino ram to any breed of ewes ; and again a merino ram to their progeny in constant succession ; and I think that it would not require many generations to efface all appearance of the original breed.

“That the new Leicester sheep, fifty years ago, were very scarce, that the prime specimens were in very few hands—so few, that the breeders sold or let their rams at an almost incredible price—is beyond all controversy. These sheep, so bred, and, I may say, so created, were at first exhibited to the public by Mr. Bakewell, and by a few other clever men who followed close upon his steps ; and the late Duke of Bedford and Lord Leicester were the first, perhaps, who mainly contributed to spread their notoriety and improve their quality. Their example was followed to such an extent, that the price of their rams even arose—to go at once to the summit—to five hundred pounds, for the use only of one of these animals. Since that time there has hardly been a breed of long wool sheep which has not been mixed up with these new Leicesters, although, in many instances, the fact is not readily admitted by the respective breeders.

“Certain it is, that an infusion of their blood is found, more or less, in every long-wool sheep, and the breeds, so improved by this cross, perpetuated. They have been crossed with South Downs, but not with a view to the perpetuation of a cross breed. I look upon what is commonly called a South Down, to be now a very different animal from the little pure South Down of fifty years ago. The admixture of the Hampshire or West Country Down sheep, crossed with the original south Down, as now adopted and recommended by Lord Leicester, has created an exceedingly different breed of animal. Lord Leicester has further, by his judgment, and by the method of varying a breed by selection, certainly created sheep very unlike the original South Downs, or any other breed then known. The Holkham sheep are obviously highly valuable in almost every important particular with a view to the grand object, namely, the production of the greatest quantity of sound good meat and useful wool, upon the smallest quantity of land.

“The contemplation of his achievement, instead of any discouragement, has been to me a stimulus to my own exertions. I know not that I need add anything further in justification of what I have undertaken. I have, however, heard of a similar idea having prevailed, to a certain extent, in some other countries, as well as in this. I have been informed, that even in Saxony some attempt of the kind has been thought of ; and I am pretty con-

ident that some Leicester sheep have been imported into that kingdom.

"I should be going too far, were I to prosecute, extensively, the inquiry into the proceedings which may have taken place in respect to other domestic animals; but I cannot refrain from calling your attention to the contemplation of one of the noblest animals in the creation, and to the specimens, almost exclusively produced in this country, of his improvement: I allude to the English race-horse. Is he not, unquestionably, the creation of an admixture of breeds? Can he be the pure Arab, thus altered and enlarged by selection? I conceive the decided probability to be, that he must be an admixture with other breeds. Then, again, the variety of English horses, from the superior hunter to the hackney. Is not such a *composition*, which must have been formed at various periods of time? Is not an infusion of Arab blood into every breed more or less prevalent, and in almost every case useful?

"To descend from the horse to the lowest animal in estimation, though, perhaps, not the least valuable, namely, the pig: it appears to me that an important change and improvement have already taken place in some districts in the breeds of this animal to a considerable extent, and which is further progressive in other parts of the country. This has been accomplished by a breed commonly called the Neapolitan, which race is found, in its greatest purity, in that beautiful peninsula, or rather a tongue of land, which lies between the Bay of Naples and that of Salerno. It has very peculiar and valuable qualities: the flavour of the meat is excellent, I should say superior to that of any other breed; and the disposition of the animal to fatten on the smallest quantity of food is unrivalled. I have so completely engrafted this stock upon British breeds, that I think that my herd can scarcely be distinguished from the pure blood.

"Upon a similar principle a great effort, I understand, is making, at this time, by a few intelligent individuals, to engraft the Cashmere upon the Angola goat, so as to grow upon the latter the beautiful wool of the former. This attempt was first made by a French gentleman, who, as I have been informed, has advanced a considerable way in the accomplishment of his object. I have seen some of these animals, which were purchased of him, in order to be taken to Van Diemen's Land: with him I closely inspected them, and their appearance certainly warranted good hopes of a favourable result.

"But I will no further press the argument, which I have founded upon these—as I consider—analogous cases; but I conclude with a hope that I may have led your lordship to the consideration of

some interesting points, which might not have occurred to you, and which, unquestionably, have a tendency to relieve me from the imputation of being unwarrantably speculative in my attempt, as some persons may, perhaps, imagine.

“ Whether the sheep which I shall exhibit at the Smithfield show will come within any of the rules of the society, to admit them as competitors for a prize, I do not know. My object will be attained by submitting them to the examination of your lordship and of the public ; at least, if I succeed, as I trust I shall, in obtaining your particular notice.*

“ Believe me,

“ My dear Lord,

“ Yours, very truly,

“ WESTERN.

“ Felix Hall, December 1st, 1838.

“ P.S. I send you herewith a little treatise, which I have re-published, entitled—

“ ‘ Remarks on the Management of Grass Land, as respects Drainage ; and the Uses of Water, and various practical Means of its Application.’—Printed for Ridgway, Piccadilly.”

“ A LETTER FROM LORD WESTERN, ON THE MANAGEMENT OF HIS FLOCK OF MERINO SHEEP, addressed to James Bischoff, Esq., author of “ A Comprehensive History of the different Breeds of Sheep, and the Woollen Trade, throughout the World.” 1842.

“ Sir,

“ Felix Hall, Feb. 5, 1842.

“ I am quite willing and desirous to furnish you with a full and complete account of the management of my merino flock, but I will first give you a little history of its origin, and the object I now have in view in continuing to cultivate the breed, with unabated care and attention. My flock has its origin in a gift from His Majesty George the Third, of forty ewes, accompanied by a request, through Sir Joseph Banks, that I would fairly try how far it was possible, to make them into *mutton* sheep. He said that many years’ experience in Windsor Park had proved distinctly that the English climate would not deteriorate the wool, and the object then was to see if the carcase could not be so improved as to make them a

* Vide the print of the group of Lord Western’s Anglo-merinos.

valuable article on the butcher's shambles. I was rather unwilling to undertake the work, having a very good flock of South Downs at the time, and the appearance of these Spaniards being most unpromising; I did, however, undertake it, and gave a pledge to His Majesty, through Sir Joseph Banks, that I would do my utmost to succeed in the attempt. Five hundred had been sent by the Cortes to our King, to be distributed amongst his subjects, and they were then at Portsmouth; as soon as I got the order, I went there immediately, and selected my ewes out of the five hundred: I gave them immediately the fullest attention, and redeemed the pledge to His Majesty. In a short time I parted with the whole of my South Down flock. I have certainly enlarged and improved the carcase beyond my early hopes, and indeed to the surprise of my brother farmers in general; I even approach the South Down, as a rival in their general appearance and quality; I know that I can produce individuals quite equal in both respects; they will not fatten quite so early, nor come to the same weight, though even here, my Anglo-merino are a match for the South Down. I sold at last Christmas Smithfield meeting, two Anglo-merino and two pure merino wethers, to Mr. Allen, the great butcher in South Audley Street; the two Anglo-merino wethers were two-shear sheep, they weighed,—

1st Anglo-merino	17st.	3lbs.—Fat.....	18½lbs.
2nd ditto	19	1 ... „	13½
1st Pure merino	11	0 ... „	13½
2nd ditto	11	1 ... „	14½

“ The pure merino were three-shear sheep, having carried their wool three years, the weight of their fleece being from twenty-five to thirty-two pounds. I sold at the same time an Anglo-merino wether and a pure merino, to a neighbouring country butcher, who has an extensive business; he speaks of the latter in very high terms, and I here insert his letter.

“ ‘ My Lord,

“ ‘ Kelvedon, Jan. 22nd, 1842.

“ ‘ The pure merino, at Christmas, was a most perfect sheep; in my opinion no Down can surpass him; so level on his back, and so filled up inside; with the most meat on the least bone I ever killed one; his weight 11st. 6lbs., with 14lbs. of loose fat. Mr. Sach, of Messing, had one haunch; Mr. Joseph Everett, of Feering, the

other, off of which I dined on Sunday last, with twelve others ; it was praised by every person ; Mr. Nott had a fore quarter ; the Rev. P. Honynwood had a haunch of Anglo, of which he speaks highly.

“ ‘ Your most obedient Servant,
“ ‘ B. REVETT.’

“ The merino sheep, when slaughtered, make a beautiful carcase in point of colour ; for clearness of white and red, there is no breed of sheep equals them. In regard to wool, I have directed my views to the growth of a fine combing wool, and having at present little demand for the stock amongst the English farmers, I have sought a foreign market, and successfully. I breed stallion rams for the colonies, and have a sale for all I can breed of sufficient quality for that purpose. I sell, occasionally, a few maiden ewes when required, but I am unwilling to part with them ; the old ewes I would sell, but the expense of the transport is so great, that it is not thought advisable to take aged sheep to the colonies. Combing wool for all sorts of stuffs increasing in demand, I resolved to try the possibility of cultivating a new breed of sheep, by crossing the merino ram with the long-wool sheep, and occasionally the long-wool ram with the merino ewe.

“ I have given you the history of these sheep in my letters to Lord Spencer, and Mr. Shaw, and have supplied you with drawings of them in the latter ; your representation of the increased export of stuffs* well bears me out in this effort ; and I invite the inspection of my Anglo-merino flock with perfect satisfaction. I certainly have some rams of that breed, with beautiful long, fine, combing wool ; and with a carcase equal to the best samples of the South Down breed.†

“ I will now proceed to give you an account of the management of my flock. I have already said it differs little from that practised by every careful flock-master. The great art consists in apportioning justly the number of sheep to the means of providing for them all the year through, as well in winter as summer ; and with this view every judicious farmer will be careful not to over-stock his land ; to do this, is, how-

	1816.	1826.	1840.
* Cloth exported.....Pieces—	636,368.....	384,598.....	215,746
Stuffs exported.....Pieces—	593,308....	1,138,588...	1,718,617

† Vide print of Lord Western's Anglo-merino ram.

[illegible]

Nº 1



Drawn and etched from nature by J. S. Cooper

ever, a frequent and fatal error ; then every thing goes wrong, and the wool shows every period of insufficient food, by becoming brittle in that stage of its growth, will break upon slight pulling, and is unfit for combing purposes. For my summer food I have grass and occasionally some clover, but principally grass, by no means of good sheep quality ; in the winter, cabbage, mangel-wurzel, turnips, chiefly Swedish ; this is not, however, a turnip soil, being much too wet and heavy. I grow superior cabbages, and good mangel-wurzel. I feed all my winter stock of food in open yards, which are constructed in so cheap a manner as to be within the means of every flock-farmer—rough posts put in the ground, with poles across and haulm to cover it, the walls made of furze or straw, worked into hurdles ; these will stand some years and are easily renewed. I have various yards of this kind for my different descriptions of sheep ; I mean ewes and lambs, and fatting sheep. I begin to yard them in November ; the lambs, or rather hoggetts, go out a few hours in the day-time when the weather is fine ; the ewes with their sucking lambs also go out in the day-time when fine ; the fatting wethers never go out—the hoggett rams go out when fine ; these and the fatting sheep are fed highly, having some corn or cake with their turnips, hay, and mangel-wurzel. All my neighbouring farmers now feed a great deal of corn and cake by sheep as well as bullocks, and find their account in it, both as respects the animals themselves and the quality of the manure to be drawn from them. The turnips and mangel are all cut with the Banbury machine, and fed in troughs in the yards ; the mangel-wurzel is stacked up, and well protected from the weather, by haulm and straw ; the Swedish turnips do not require so much care ; all the hay is cut.

“ I keep for my own flock a certain number of stallion rams, which I have always tied up in a sheep-house, by the head like horses ; they are very healthy so stalled up, and attached to their stalls, from which, when taken down to be shown or examined, they are uneasy, and run back to them when permitted, with great eagerness ; I have also always in the same house, nine sheep bearing their fleeces for three years, three hoggets, three shearlings, and three two-shear ; when I take the third fleece I finish them for the Christmas slaughter ; I

say finish, for they come very fat out of their fleeces, which weigh from twenty-five to thirty-two pounds ; these are kept for exhibition of the singular powers of the animal, both in production of such a fleece of wool and ability to support it, and of growing and thriving and fattening at the same time ; they are of course highly fed, but eat comparatively very little. I was first induced to adopt this experiment, from finding the fleece adhere as tenaciously to the skin at shearing-time, as at any other, which I thought was peculiar to the breed, and their ability to carry their fleeces ; but I have recently seen a Leicester fleece of three years' growth, of the extraordinary length of *three* feet.

“ In regard to the general improvement of the flock, I need hardly observe, that every thing depends upon the judicious selection of the rams and ewes, from which it is intended to breed stallion rams ; and it is impossible to bestow too much care and attention on this work. The points to attend to in respect of form, are first, the bosom, which should be wide and open, the back and loins broad, the hind quarters long, and tail standing high, the ribs round, the belly rather straight than tubby, the shoulders should rather lie inclining backward than upright, the legs should be short, stand straight with a full muscle in the arm above the knee, the same above the hock, the scrag or neck should be strong and masculine, and gracefully joined on to the head, which should be small, and well and beautifully hung on, the eyes prominent and bright, the ears short and quickly moving then ; the face should be satin or silky, the head well woolled and free from kemp hairs, which are apt to prevail in that part, the nose should be clear bright flesh colour, the fleece should be well examined about the breech and belly, which I have seen very coarse and bad in some imported sheep ; a good fleece should fill the hand well, and be soft and yet firm ; in handling the sheep, the great object is to find the bones well covered with good, firm, solid flesh ; and when the animal is lean, there still are symptoms discoverable of an inclination to lay it on, which a kindly constitutioned animal will, though lean, always have ; for instance, a little hollow indented line or groove along the backbone, instead of the bone standing sharp and rigid ; this hollow line generally commences at the tail, and the further it

continues along the back bone the better. In examining a sheep the turning of him should never be omitted, that his leg and bosom may be fully and fairly seen. There are a great many tup or stallion-breeders too ready to omit this essential ceremony of inspection; the attention is confined to the top of the backs and loins, and behind the shoulders and flanks, and certainly where the backs are so good the legs of mutton are apt to be deficient. The merino sheep carry a good leg of mutton, and strong in the neck or scrag, are masculine and vigorous, active and courageous, and in all respects cross well with the long-wool sheep of every description; crossed with the Kent, they give the best wool; but the Leicester and Cotswold, the superior carcase, and I prefer these to the Kent.

"I have given in my letter to Lord Spencer, the reasons which encouraged me to cultivate the new breed of sheep, and I need hardly repeat them here. The thorough Anglo should be the offspring of a ram and ewe, each having two parts merino to one of long-wool, and these sheep breeding together are to constitute the flock; if the flock is found to incline a little too much to either side, a little more of the long wool or merino, as the case may be, must be thrown in: so a South Down farmer, if he finds his flock getting a little too coarse, too light in the bone, or too heavy, too black in the face, or too white, will take care to correct the fault, by throwing in blood of sheep of superior character in those objectionable points.

"To go back to the breeding flock, I have only to observe, that I put the ewes to the rams at eighteen months old, unless from being twins or other accidents they are very diminutive, and yet of prime quality; then I let them stand over to another year. I keep all my old ewes of superior quality as long as they can bear and bring up a lamb; and this I am obliged to do, in consequence of having no fair or market to go to for the purchase of fresh stock. I had almost forgotten to say a word upon the effect of this climate on the merino sheep: this negligence has arisen from the fact of my merino sheep never having shown any symptom of their finding this climate otherwise than quite congenial to them; the severest cold, when dry, certainly is not unpleasant to them, they appear in better spirits, and the young lambs jump about with

CHAPTER XII.

Woollen and Worsted Manufactures difference in Processes described—Processes in Woollen Manufacture enumerated—Processes explained, viz., Scouring the Wool—Dyeing, in Wool and Piece—Willying—Willying Machine described—Moating—Oiling—Scribbling—Carding—Carding Engine described—Slubbing, Slubbing Billey—Spinning—the Mule—Joint Stock Scribbling, &c. Mills—Weaving, by Hand-loom, by Power-loom—Scouring the Cloth—Drying—Burling—Fulling—Fulling Mill described—Improved Fulling Mill—Raising or Teazling—Cost of Teazles—the Gig Mill or Teazling Mill—Atkinson's Card Raising Gigs—Cropping or Shearing—Hand Shears—Machine Shears—Oldland's Cutting Machine—Mozing—Boiling or Patenting—Brushing—Picking—Drawing—Marking—Pressing—Packing.—Processes in Worsted Manufacture enumerated—Processes explained, viz.,—Washing—Drying—Plucking—Combing—New Combing Machine of Platt and Collyer—of Rawson and Donisthorpe—Carding—The Hindu Loom—The European Loom—Warping or Reeling—Warping Mill—Weaving—Figure Weaving—The Jacquard Engine introduced into Yorkshire, by Messrs. Akroyd, of Halifax—Rate of Wages in the County of Gloucester—Decrease of Manufactures in Wiltshire—Rate of Wages in Yorkshire—Price of Food used in Greenwich Hospital—Felting—The Stocking Frame, invention of.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED MANUFACTURES.

IN vol. i. page 374, and following, a description is given of the process of carding and combing wool at the close of the last century. An improvement in the latter process, invented by Dr. Cartwright, is mentioned in vol. i. page 316. Very great improvements have been since made in both, and by the kind and liberal permission of Messrs. Adam and Charles Black, of Edinburgh, the compiler is enabled to give the whole of the very excellent and concise article in the last number of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, which was published in September last.* The pains which these gentlemen have taken to give a clear description of these, as well as other branches upon which they treat, renders the new edition of that work the most valuable.

“ We now come to describe the manufacture of the wool of sheep in its two great divisions of woollen and worsted manufactures. Before we enter fully into the two processes, it may be well to indicate in what the difference consists.” In vol. i., page 374, already referred to, a description is given

* Vol. xxi., p. 930 and following.

of that peculiar property of wool called the felting property, by which the fibres, when submitted to heat, moisture, and pressure combined, form one almost homogeneous mass. "Of this property advantage is taken in almost every article of woollen manufacture, the yarn being softly and loosely spun for the purpose. In the case of worsted, on the other hand, the felting property is neglected, the wool is submitted to the process of combing, which rather impairs, though it does not destroy, the felting property; and the fibres being elongated and laid even, the thread is twisted and spun hard, so as to feel close, hard, and thread-like to the touch, and not soft and loose like the yarn destined for the manufacture of woollen cloths. Keeping this distinction in view, we will first treat of the manufacture of cloths, the most perfect of woollen fabrics, and the following is a catalogue of the processes, which we shall describe *seriatim* :—

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Sorting the wool. | 14. Weaving.* |
| 2. Scouring or washing. | 15. Scouring. |
| 3. Dyeing, (when wool-dyed.) | 16. Dyeing, (when piece-dyed) |
| 4. Willying, or twillying.* | 17. Burling. |
| 5. Picking, or moating. | 18. Fulling, or felting.* |
| 6. Oiling. | 19. Scouring. |
| 7. Scribbling. | 20. Tenter-drying. |
| 8. Carding.* | 21. Raising, or teasing.* |
| 9. Slubbing.* | 22. Shearing.* |
| 10. Spinning.* | 23. Brushing.* |
| 11. Reeling.* | 24. Picking-drawing. |
| 12. Warping. | 25. Pressing.* |
| 13. Sizing.* | 26. Packing. |

"The proper sort having been selected, the wool is scoured or washed, to free it from the animal grease with which it abounds. This, in the West of England invariably, and in Yorkshire generally, is effected as follows:—Stale urine, called in the West of England "ley," is mixed with a small quantity of soap, and heated to about 120 degrees. In this detergent the wool is soaked; on removal, it is placed in a wire basket, and submitted to the operation of running water, by which the grease and other impurities are washed away. By some manufacturers of Yorkshire, the wool is washed with warm soap and water, and, after receiving a second

* These processes are performed by machine.

washing in clean water, to free it from the soap, is pressed nearly dry. The business of scouring or washing is performed by men; and by the first process, two are capable of cleaning two packs in a day.

"Cloth (other than white cloth) is either wool-dyed or piece-dyed. Of the former, the dyeing is the first process after washing. The larger manufacturers themselves dye all the common colours, such as browns and olives, but the true, or woaded colours, such as blue, wool-black, and green, can only be well done by those who make it their special business. The small manufacturers send all colours to the dyers. The prices paid for dyeing vary, according to the colours, from 10d. to 1s. 6d. per lb., that is, 10d. to 1s. for woaded medleys; 1s. to 1s. 2d. for wool-dyed blacks, and 1s. 2d. to 1s. 6d. for blues. Piece-dyed cloths are sent to the dyeing house after fulling and scouring, raising and shearing.

"Delivered at the mills, the wool (dyed or undyed, as the case may be,) is now submitted to the first of a series of machines; all of them are admirably adapted to perform their respective parts in the production of the woven fabric. The first machine is called the willy, or the shake-willy, in Yorkshire, and the twilly, in Gloucestershire. Both seem to be a corrupt mode of pronouncing the *willow* of the cotton manufacture, (as the Scotch call window *windy*,) and even *willow* is probably a corruption of *winnow*; winnowing the wool being really the office it performs.

"There are various kinds of willying machines in use, but the best appears to be the conical willy, made by Mr. Lilly, of Manchester. It was first applied to the cleansing of cotton; but it has been tried in Leeds with success, and we believe is now used to a considerable extent.

"The willy consists of a revolving cone, armed with four rows of iron spikes, strongly fixed in four longitudinal bars, which, being fastened to three concentric wheels of different diameters, the common axis of which forms the shaft of the machine, the conical form is at once accounted for. This cone revolves at the rate of from 300 to 500 revolutions per minute, within a casing cylinder, armed with several spikes, but placed so as to alternate with the spikes on the cone. At the small end of the cone is a concentric covering of thin sheet iron, and at the large end is a gridiron plate.

“The machine is fed by means of an endless apron, the wool entering at the smaller end, so that when most entangled it is subjected to the least motion. This apron is a great improvement on former machines, which were filled by hand, an operation attended with danger, and sometimes resulting in accidents. By the revolutions of the cylinder, the wool is torn, disentangled, and cleaned, and by the gradually increasing centrifugal force, it is impelled forwards towards the large end of the cone, encountering in its way increased motion; which, however, it is better able to bear by becoming less and less entangled at every revolution.

“When the wool thus reaches the base of the cone, it is tossed into a chamber, where it is received upon another endless apron, moving in a direction *from* the machine instead of towards it. Over this apron is a cylindrical wire cage, which revolves on an axis disposed parallel to the apron, and immediately over it is a revolving fan. Both these are covered and protected by sheet iron casings, but communicate with the chamber which receives the wool from the cone. When the whole is at work, the fan, drawing the dust out of the chamber, blows it through a chimney, or pipe, connected with the machine for the purpose. The cage prevents the escape of the wool with the dust, and, by its passage over the apron, it lays down the wool in a continuous fleece.

“The coarser wools, destined for common cloths, are willied more than once; for instance, before and after dyeing, and after oiling, and before they are scribbled; the finer wools do not, however, require this, as the operation of scribbling is a sufficient preparation for carding.

“In the West of England, the wool is beaten with wooden rollers, by women, after which it is placed in a wire screen, or hurdle, and pulled with the hands, so as to get rid of any burs or pitch, or other dirt which may not have been separated by the willy.

“In Yorkshire, the wool is picked by a boy, called a wool moater. If this be not done, the scribbling machine is injured by any lumps of pitch so frequently found in wool.

“The wool is next oiled for the scribbling machine, three or four pounds of gallipoli oil being intimately mingled with 20 pounds of wool. A man can oil about 400 lbs. in a day.

“The process of scribbling differs but little from that of

carding, the only difference being, that the machine is coarser, and that the wool is delivered in a continuous fleece instead of narrow bands or slivers. The object of both is further to separate and open out the fibre of the wool, and even to tear it asunder. Both processes should, if successfully performed, equalise the quantity of wool in a given length of cardings. In order that the disentangling and separating of the wool may be as complete as possible before it is moved from the scribbling to the carding engine, it is sometimes made to undergo the scribbling process two or even three times.

“The wool carding engine consists of one large cylinder, or card-drum, surmounted by three pairs of smaller cylinders, called urchins, all of them covered with card cloths, armed with carding wires. The smaller cylinders are of unequal size: the larger of the two is called the worker, and the smaller the cleaner, which revolves at great speed. At one end of the engine is an endless feeding apron, upon which equal portions, by weight, of the oiled wool, is evenly spread by hand. This apron, by its motion towards the engine, delivers the wool through a pair of feed rollers, which distribute it upon the card-drum: from this the wool is gradually stripped, as it were, fibre by fibre, by the first worker, whence it is received by the first cleaner, and by it again deposited in the card-drum. This is twice repeated, so that the disentangling and separation of the fibre becomes more and more complete. When it has passed over the last cylinder on to the drum, it is taken from it by a cylinder somewhat larger than the workers, and called a doffer; from which again the whole is scraped off by a doffing knife, which moves rapidly up and down, by means of a crank, so that it scrapes the doffer downwards only. In the scribbling process the wool is wound round a revolving roller in an endless fleece, having the appearance of a fine blanket. But the carding engine differs from the scribbling machines in the mode in which the doffer is armed, and in the contrivance for receiving the wool from the doffer. The doffer, instead of being uniformly covered with wires, is merely armed with a succession of card leathers, arranged in longitudinal bands, parallel with the axis of the doffer. The effect of this is, that the doffing knife detaches the wool from the doffer in the shape of bands,

or slivers. These, instead of being wound round a roller, fall into the flutes of a fluted cylinder, and as half of this cylinder is covered with a case called a shell, near enough to the cylinder to touch the slivers, as they lie in the flutes or grooves, they are rolled into what are called cardings, and are received upon an apron moving in a direction from the engine.

"The several cylinders move at different velocities, not merely in relation to their surface, but in the relative number of revolutions which they perform in a given time. The card drum is usually three feet in diameter, and makes one hundred revolutions in a minute; hence the surface of the drum moves forty-five times as fast as the workers; their surfaces move in the same direction.

"The cleaners revolve in a contrary direction, and they card the wool on the drum as well as on the workers; they move very rapidly, namely, 300 revolutions in a minute; but as they are only one-ninth of the diameter of the drum, their surface has only one-third of the velocity of the surface of the drum.

"The worker next the doffer is called the fly, from its great velocity. It is furnished with straight teeth, and it does not take the fibres from the card-drum, but merely raises them to the surface, from which they are stripped by the doffer, the surface velocity of which is only one-thirtieth of that of the drum. The wool is then scraped off by the doffing knife, and rolled into cardings, as already described.

"These several processes come under the general name *preparing*. Within the last year a patent has been taken out by Mr. Thomas Walker, of Galashiels, for an improved mode of feeding the preparing machinery, which is said to produce a more even yarn than the old methods.

"After the wool is thus prepared by the operations of wilying, scribbling, and carding, it is in a state to be spun into yarn by machines, which elongate the cardings, rovings, or rollers, as they are called in some districts, and at the same time twist them in the required degree."

The process of spinning, and the improvements in machinery employed in it having already been described,* all that now remains is to describe the mode of spinning yarn proper for the manufacture of woollen cloth.

* Vide page 275, vol. I, and following.

"This is effected in two operations. The first, called *slubbing*, is performed with a machine called a *slubbing billy*, which is certainly behind the generally improved state of manufacturing machinery; and the second and most complete spinning is effected either with the *jenny* or the *mule*.

"In the operation of *slubbing*, the *cardings* are joined together end to end, elongated to a certain extent, and slightly twisted to give them sufficient cohesion and strength. The *slubbing* thus produced has the appearance of a soft and weak thread.

"The *spindles* in the *slubbing billy* are arranged on a moveable carriage, which runs along the frame of the *billy* on friction wheels. The *cardings* are arranged on an endless apron, in a slanting direction at the end of the frame opposite to the carriage. They then pass under a wooden roller, which presses lightly upon them, so as slightly to compress them. In front of this roller is a moveable rail, which, when it rests upon the *cardings*, prevents their being drawn through the rollers, but, when elevated by means of a lever underneath, permits the *cardings* to be drawn forward by the retiring of the spindle carriage. Immediately over the spindle is a wire, which, when let down upon the *yarns*, presses them downwards, and allows them to be wound round the *spindles* by their revolutions as the carriage is moved home by the *slubber*.

"We will now suppose the carriage at rest: a small wheel on the carriage, by passing under the levers, elevates the rail, and permits the *cardings* to be drawn freely through the roller, the moment the *slubber* moves the carriage towards the extremity of the machine. The *cardings* are brought from the *carding engines* by children, and by a slight lateral rolling motion of the fingers, are joined on the ends of the *cardings* already attached to the machine. This is repeated as often as is necessary. In order to prevent the undue thickening of the *cardings* at the junction, each *carding* is smaller at the ends, and some little tact is required on the part of the *piecers*, or *pieceniers*, as the children who perform the work are called, to prevent any inequality at the junction. This tact is soon acquired even by very young children.

"The *slubber* now seizes the rail of the carriage, and draws it slowly out. As the rail in front of the *slubbing roller* is

elevated by the upward pressure of the lever, the carding is drawn through without being elongated, about eight inches. At this point the lever is disengaged, and the rail descends upon the cardings, and pinches them fast. As no more can be drawn out, the further drawing back of the carriage necessarily elongates the cardings, and by the motion of the spindles, a slight twist is at the same time given to them. This is effected by the slubber turning the wheel with his right hand, his left being occupied with the carriage-rail, and the handle is brought within his reach for the purpose.

"It should be observed, that during this part of the operation, from the inclined position of the spindles, the yarn is not wound round them by their revolution, but at every turn it slips off, being merely twisted by the revolution of the spindles. When the slubber judges the yarn to be sufficiently twisted, he moves the carriage forward, and at the same time brings the *faller-wire* down upon the whole row of yarns; then by setting the spindles in motion, the yarns are wound round them in the form of a double cone. The *faller-wire* is connected with the carriage-rail by two arms, and as the rail turns on its axis, the slubber is able to raise or depress the wire as he grasps the rail to move the carriage forward, by the motion of his wrist.

"The billy, like the jenny, has generally sixty spindles. One carding engine will keep one billy employed, and, with steady work, one slubber should have four pieceners, who consequently have each fifteen cardings to manage. There is no excessive labour in the operation, nor is the attention of the children painfully overstretched.

"Dr. Ure mentions an invention by Mr. Charles Wilson, intended to supersede the slubbing billy in preparing wool for spinning. It consists of an adaptation of a system of rollers to the carding machine, by which the cardings are sufficiently elongated for the operation of the mule or the jenny."

The whole history of the great inventions by which the art of spinning has arrived at its present state of perfection, has been already given.* "The jenny is still used to some

* Vide vol. 1, page 276, and following.

extent in Yorkshire, though the mule is fast superseding it. In some of the clothing villages of the West-Riding, it is the custom of the manufacturers to give out the work in slubbing, and the workman spins and weaves at so much per string of ten feet. In other places, the small manufacturers, who have perhaps two, four, or six looms, purchase the wool, and get it scribbled, carded, and slubbed at a mill, then spin and weave it themselves, and, after getting it fulled at the mill, carry it to the Leeds and Huddersfield cloth markets in an unfinished state. In both these cases the jenny is made use of. These mills are not unfrequently built by subscription by the small manufacturers. A manager is appointed, the regular price of slubbing, &c., is charged, and the profits are divided at the end of the year. In the larger manufactories, the mule is used instead of the jenny. In some of these factories, all the operations, from sorting the wool to packing the cloth, are carried on, whilst in some the weaving is given out." There are many establishments in the West-Riding of Yorkshire where the whole process of cloth-making is carried on. That system was commenced by Messrs. Wormald, Gott, and Wormald, under the management of Mr. Gott; it was followed by Mr. Pim Nevins, who confined himself to the manufacture of the finest cloth; and it is now in a most perfect state in many factories.

"The hand-loom is chiefly employed at present. In several factories power-looms are employed to weave the finest and broadest cloths, such as are twelve quarters wide in the loom; and we could discover no greater difficulty than in the weaving of worsted stuffs, to which power has been extensively applied. The operation of warping and weaving will be described after the process of combing. The cloth is woven of the width just mentioned, to allow for the shrinking which it undergoes by the processes of scouring and fulling, especially the latter. The outer edges of the cloth have a list border, which receives the tenter-hooks in stretching. The list is made in the West of England frequently of goats' hair.

"After the cloth comes from the loom, and before it can undergo any other process, it is necessary to scour it, in order to get rid of the oil and size to which the wool and yarn have been subjected in the preparatory process. This is performed

at the mill in a somewhat rude machine called the stocks, and consisting of a pair of wooden mallets, worked alternately by a cog wheel. The cloth is exposed to the stroke of the mallet on an inclined trough, the end of which is curved, so that the tendency of the stroke is to turn the cloth round and round, and different portions are alternately exposed to the operation of the hammers. At first soap or some other detergent is used, but at last a stream of pure water is let in upon it.

“It is now carried to the drying-room or tenter-ground, and stretched upon a vertical rail or tenter-hooks, where it is left to dry in the extended state; the lower rail of the tenter-frame is made to slide, so that the cloth may acquire the requisite degree of tension.

“The cloth thus cleansed and dried is delivered over to the burlers, who pick out all irregular threads, hairs, or dirt, of whatever kind, which may remain in the fabric: this process is called burling, and to perform it the cloth is examined both on the surface and through the web against a strong light. In the larger factories a room is assigned to the business of burling; but in the cloth villages of the West Riding, during the summer months, the process is carried on by the way side, and in lanes, on walls, and on hedges.

“The cloth is now ready for the operation of the fulling mill, which, like the scouring stocks, is furnished with mallets driven by a cog wheel; but the milling trough has a square instead of a circular end, so that the cloth receives the direct blow of the mallets, and is not made to escape from the blow by the operation itself. The stroke of the mallet is extremely heavy, but it does not injure the cloth, on account of the multitude of folds. This greater force, as compared with the scouring stocks, is produced by the hanging of the hammers. The shafts of the scouring stocks are nearer to the perpendicular, so as to cause the mallets to move more horizontally, and therefore with less velocity; they are hence called the hanging stocks, while those of the fulling mills are called fulling stocks.

“Improvement has of late found its way into this branch of the cloth manufacture, as well as into others. The old fulling mill was of wood, but such machines are now con-

structed of iron, with much more accuracy, and work with greater precision. The best of these is the invention of Messrs. Willans and Ogle, of Leeds; the bed of the machine is hollow, so as to form a steam chest, connected by a pipe with a boiler, so as to keep up the degree of heat necessary to the perfection of the fulling or felting process. But the great improvement of this machine is a contrivance for altering the form of the trough against which the cloth receives the stroke of the mallet; this consists of a moveable curved plate, traversing on a fixed hinge rod at the bottom of the trough. The upper edge of this curved plate is capable of being advanced towards, or withdrawn from the mallets, by means of a screw-rod attached to its back. By this means the directness, and therefore the force of the stroke, is altered so as to suit the different qualities of cloth.

“ To the felting property of wool we have already alluded, (vol. i. p. 375.) By the united operations of beating, heat, and moisture, the minutely jagged surfaces of the fibres of the wool are made intimately to cohere, and form not a mere woven tissue, like cotton, flax, or silk, but a felted homogeneous mass, similar to the paper on which we print. If a piece of cloth be cut, it will not unravel; the tissue is almost lost under the thick fulling surface raised upon it, and the weaving seems less to give a character to the fabric, than to impart the requisite degree of strength. Superfine cloths have four fullings of three hours each, a thick solution of soap being spread between each layer of cloth every time. Scouring is aided by fuller's earth,—that which is found in England being said to be superior to any other. Rinsing with clear water completes the process, which diminishes the width of the cloth between 40 and 45 per cent., and the length about 50 per cent; after every impurity is washed out, the cloth is again stretched upon the tenters until it is completely dry.

“ The cloth next undergoes the operation of teasing, by which the loose fibres of the wool are raised to the surface, so as to form, when duly cut and sheared, the pile or nap. For this purpose the teasle, a species of thistle (*dipsacus fullorum*) is employed. This useful plant is cultivated in the clothing counties, and especially in Somersetshire, where they are sold in packs of about 20,000, at £6 per pack. In periods

of scarcity the price has advanced as high as £22 per pack, followed by a great importation from France, and a consequent glut reducing the price to £3. A piece of forty yards consumes 3,000. This state of circumstances has induced many to turn their attention to the invention of some metallic substitute, but the thistle teazle still maintains its supremacy.

“Formerly the teazle was fixed in a hand-frame, and worked by two men in the manner of a large two-handled brush, or hand card: but for many years the gig mill has been employed, in which the teazles are arranged on a cylinder, and the cloth being stretched on two cloth beams, one above and one below the teazle cylinder, the cloth moving in a direction contrary to its revolution, its surface is exposed to the operation of the teazles. In the older gig mills, the cylinder was completely bristled with the teazles, but in the modern mills they are arranged in longitudinal frames parallel to the axis of the cylinder, with equal spaces between each, like the bars of an immense reel. By the rapid revolution of the cylinder, and the slower motion of the cloth in a contrary direction, the loose fibres of the wool are brought to the surface. The longitudinal teazle-frames can be removed from the cylinder at pleasure, and when the teazles become clogged with wool, they are removed and cleaned with a comb by children.

“The most recent invention of a gig mill with metallic teazles is that of Mr. Atkinson; it does not differ materially from the gig mill just described. A series of longitudinal teazle-cards take the place of teazles; these teazle cards rest on a spring which gives them elasticity, and prevents any damage to the cloth. The teeth incline slightly in the direction of the line of motion, and they are cleaned by a wheel similar to the cleaner of a wool-card. Dr. Ure states that the pile is more perfectly raised by this machine, and the nap of the cloth is much softer. The superiority of the teazle over wire, arises from the tendency of the former to break off when they meet with a knot or inequality, which the metallic teazle card would tear out: the spring with which Mr. Atkinson's gig mill is fitted may perhaps correct this.

“The mode of winding cloth from one roller to another has varied from time to time, still varies in different factories,

and has even been the subject of a patent by Mr. Walker, of Mill Shay, in the township of Beeston, near Leeds. Mr. Walker's improvement consists of five rollers instead of three; two are immediately over the cylinder, the lower one brings the cloth close to it: the effect of the lower roller is to cause the cloth to be operated upon by a greater number of the rows of teazles, as the cloth touches the cylinder for about one-fifth of its circumference; it then passes round another roller, and ascends to a second pair, round one of which it is wound.

"When the fibre has thus been torn to the surface, the pile so raised is cropped or sheared. This, like all the other operations of cloth making, was formerly performed by hand, a large pair of shears being employed for the purpose. But the disposition to apply machinery to every process of manufacture was not here neglected; and in the early part of this century a machine was invented, in which the shears were retained, but all their motions were regulated by machinery. The cloth was stretched horizontally on a frame by means of two cloth-beams or rollers, situated at each end of the lower part of the frame; two pairs of shears were then so fixed as to clip the surface of the cloth, being moved by two small cranks. Upon this first machine there have been many improvements, but it will be sufficient to describe the most recent, which has the merit of being extremely simple. It is the invention of Mr. George Oldland, of Hilsley, in Gloucestershire, and was patented in 1832. The machine consists of a fixed semi-circular rack, within, or rather behind which is a cutting edge, called by the inventor a *ledger blade*; and a large revolving wheel, armed with eight small cutting discs, which, being in contact with the ledger blade, form, when in motion, a series of far more delicate shears than have hitherto been applied to the process of cloth shearing. Each cutting disc has a toothed pinion, working in a semi-circular rack, which, as the larger wheel revolves, imparts to the cutting discs an independent rotary motion, in addition to their revolution with the large wheel: these motions have not inaptly been likened to those of a planet round its axis and its orbit. The other machine in use consists of an iron cylinder, around which is a spiral cutting blade, which is made to revolve with great rapidity, cutting the pile of the cloth immediately in

contact beneath it, the cloth being stretched in a longitudinal moving frame.

"Superfine cloths are cut, raised, and brushed several times. In the West of England, the first raising is called *roughing*, in which process the cloth is torn by the teazles both ways. After being sheared, it is subject to the gig-mill in one direction only, which is called *moz*ing. It is afterwards cut and teazled several times.

"In most cases the cloth is subjected to an operation which imparts great lustre to it, and at the same time prevents its spotting when used; this operation is called roller-boiling, or patenting; the cloth is lightly wound round rollers, and is immersed in water heated to 180 degrees of Fahrenheit for twenty-four hours, when it is once more stretched upon the teuters and dried. Mr. William Hirst, of Leeds, a great improver of the cloth manufacture," and to whom the manufacturers of the West Riding of Yorkshire are under great obligation, "finding the long exposure to heat injurious, proposed an alternate and intermitting immersion in hot and cold water, and his method is attended with great success.

"The cloth is now removed to the brushing machine, a system of brushes affixed to cylinders. In its passage the cloth is exposed to steam, which escapes in minute jets from a copper box, extending the whole length of the machine. For the purpose of brushing, the cloth is made into an endless web by stitching the ends together, and the brushing is continued as long as it may be deemed necessary.

"Before the final brushing, *moz*ing, or finishing is given to it, however, it is subjected to a further examination before the light and on the surface, and is picked, fine drawn, and marked. The picking is to remove all blemishes, similar to the process of burling, already described: the fine-drawing is to close any minute hole or break in the fabric; and the marking is the working in with white or yellow silk, a word indicative of the quality and number of the piece, such as "Saxony Extra Superfine" and so forth; the pile is again brushed, and after the final dressing is thus given to it, it is pressed in a hydraulic press. Between each fold of the cloth is placed a polished pressing-board or press-paper; between each piece of cloth, for many are pressed at the same time,

are two iron plates, each one-half the width of the cloth. If the cloth is to be hot-pressed, an operation seldom applied now to the best cloths, as the patenting or steaming supercedes the necessity of this process, these plates are heated; but this only gives a gloss which is a poor substitute for that beautiful face which our finest cloths exhibit. The cloth is now finished, and packed in bales for market. Sometimes the cloth is cut into ends or half pieces.”*

The Worsted Trade.—“The wool employed in the worsted manufacture is the long or combing, as distinguished from the short or clothing wool; and the object of all the preparatory processes is to facilitate the production of a finer and more perfectly spun thread than would be fit for fulled cloth. By the operations of worsted spinning, indeed, the felting property of the wool is greatly impaired, though not wholly destroyed, and the worsted fabric is not homogeneous like the fulled cloth, but is reticulated like linen and cotton fabrics.

“The several processes of a worsted factory are as follows :

1. Sorting.	5. Combing.	9. Reeling.
2. Washing.	6. Drawing.	10. Weaving.
3. Drying.	7. Roving.	&c. &c.
4. Plucking.	8. Spinning.	

“For the worsted manufacture the washing of the wool is very carefully performed with soap and water, the greater part of the moisture being pressed out between rollers: the wool is then carried to the drying room, where it is spread on the floor which is over the boilers of the steam engine, by which a high temperature is kept up. When the wool is thoroughly dried, it is passed through a machine called a *plucker*, which consists of a pair of spiked rollers fed by an endless apron. By the revolving spikes of this machine the fibres of the wool are cleansed and straightened; and as the interior is furnished with a fan or blower, the wool is blown out at the opposite end of the machine.

“The wool is now ready for the process of combing, which is performed either by the hand or by machinery: but as none of the various combing machines which have been invented, have attained that perfection which has been im-

* Encyclopædia Britannica, vol. xxi., p. 931 and following.

parted to other automatic contrivances, the finest long wools are invariably combed by hand." The process of hand-combing has been already described, (vide vol. i, page 374 and following.) The first combing-machine, invented by Dr. Cartwright, has been also mentioned, (vide vol. i, page 316.) Several improvements have been since made, and indeed new machines invented: "that which has been adopted to a considerable extent is in the worsted spinning establishment of the late firm of Messrs. Hindes and Derham, at Leeds, and is a foreign invention, but patented in this country by Mr. John Platt, of Salford, in 1827, and is known as the combing machine of Platt and Collyer, so that it has now stood the test of fourteen years' trial. It consists of two revolving combs fixed in a frame inclined at an angle of twenty-seven degrees: these wheels are in the ordinary form, with comb teeth set at the edge of the rim at right angles to the radii of the wheel. These wheels are made to revolve with great rapidity; at first, at such a distance, that the extremities of the wool thrown off by centrifugal force can alone be combed; but the circular combs are made gradually to approach each other so as to imitate the hand process. This motion is effected by mounting the axle of one of the wheels in slides: the traverse movement being effected by means of an endless screw attached to the under part of the frame. The framework of the wheels is hollow, and steam circulates freely in it, so as to keep up the required degree of temperature.

"The circular combs are fed by a boy who sits on the ground, and throws the wool upon the teeth in the same manner that the comber does on the hand comb. When one comb is charged, they are thrown into gear by shifting the driving belt on to the proper pulley; and as they revolve with rapidity against each other, gradually approaching, as already described, the whole length of the staple is combed out smooth: they are then thrown out of gear, and one end of the sliver being drawn through rollers, the sliver is pulled out by a boy; the noils being then removed, the machine is charged anew.

"After the wool has been combed, it is removed to the frame which opens out any fibres which may have escaped from the combs in a partially felted state. The principal

part of the frame consists of two rows of endless comb-chains, the wool is introduced between feed-rollers by means of an endless apron, upon which equal weights of wool are uniformly spread out from time to time; the teeth of the endless combs are arranged alternately, so that those of the upper are midway between those of the under comb-chain. After the wool has passed through, it is received by two rollers of the same diameter as the feed rollers; the sliver then passes through a copper trumpet-shaped funnel, and then between another pair of rollers, and falls into a tin can. The respective velocities of the different parts of the machine are as follows: the velocity of the comb-chain is twice that of the feed-rollers, and that of the second or receiving rollers twice that of the chain, and that of the last pair a little greater than the second, simply because their diameter is a little more.

“The chain is formed of a series of small rectangular pieces of tin, the half of one overlapping the other; the hinges are formed by little discs of the metal, which are turned up at right angles: the teeth are soldered to each piece of tin, and in the end which overlaps is cut a groove, to admit the free motion of the teeth, as the leaves pass over the cylinders. So long as the chain is clear of the cylinders, the tin leaves lie evenly one upon the other, but as soon as the chain meets the cylinders, the overlapping ends are lifted, and the wool upon the teeth is cleaned off and disengaged, so as to be ready to be taken up by the second pair of rollers, passed through the funnel between the last pair of rollers, and into the can as already described.”*

The sliver is now ready for the drawing and spinning machine, of which an account has been given in vol. i, page 274, and following.

Another combing-machine, invented by Messrs. Rawson and Donisthorpe, has been lately introduced, which is likely to get into general use.

A considerable influence has been exerted upon the worsted trade, by the introduction of the process of carding the wool, instead of combing it. The application of the cotton process was patented by Mr. William Lister, of Halifax. A some-

* Encyclopædia Britannica, Edinburgh, 1841, vol. xxi., page 935.

what similar plan was also about the same time adopted by Messrs. Haddens, of Aberdeen, and both parties considered their individual patents invaded, and mutually brought actions against each other, the result of which was, that both were thrown open to the public on the same day, whereby the patentees were never able to realize the fruits of their ingenuity.

The process of carding the wool for worsted yarn, unlike the woollen mode, which brings off the wool in short lengths equal to the width of the carding engine, in a tangled and crooked arrangement of the fibres to fit them for felting, draws it off in a continuous sliver or ribbon similar to the cotton; after which, it is doubled at a machine called a hot-frame, where it goes through hot water and passes over a series of hollow cylinders heated with steam, which dries the wool, and by the successive application of moisture and heat the drawing is saddened, and a nearly similar effect is produced as by combing the damp wool by the heated hand-combs.

This process has economised the spinning of low yarns, and little other is now used in the manufacture of carpets, fringes, many articles in small wares, and in a large proportion in the hosiery trade; and though it is unable to produce so clean, so even, or so tough a thread as the combed yarns, it may be considered an important improvement for many purposes where those qualities are not essential.

Its economy lies first in the cheapness with which the fibres are made to take their longitudinal and continuous arrangement; and secondly, in retaining the greater proportion of the short wool, which by combing is withdrawn, and forms the noils, which is sold, at a considerable reduction of price, for the woollen and blanket manufactures, and thereby permitting a shorter stapled and consequently a cheaper wool to be used. A large proportion of skin wool, which before the introduction of this plan was worked up by the woollen manufactures, can now be employed for worsted; and that pulled from the middle of October to the end of December is sold for the purpose, under the term of machine or carding skin wool.

By the vast improvement in the process of spinning by machinery, but more particularly by that of combing, wool of the length of three inches staple, and even less than that, can

now be made into worsted yarn, which has completely changed the purposes to which the wools of Great Britain are applied. Mr. Luccock estimated the quantity of wool grown in Great Britain at 393,236 packs, of which 137,228 was the proportion of long wool, adapted to the worsted trade ; but now, in consequence of the increased length of the staple of British wool already mentioned, and the improvements in the process of combing, there is scarce any wool grown in the United Kingdom, which cannot be used in the worsted manufacture, and large quantities of what were imported from Spain, Germany, Australia, and other parts, are applied to the same purpose ; for hand-combing it was requisite that the wool should be about six inches long.

Before describing the process of warping and weaving, it will be desirable to give some account of the loom :—

“ Weaving is the art of arranging yarn or thread of various materials, so as to form cloth. In all woven cloths, one system of threads is made alternately under and over another system of threads, so as to resemble, when held up to the light, a piece of close network.

“ Though, for the sake of effecting this in less time and with less labour than common instruments are capable of, steam power and somewhat complicated machinery have been resorted to, a very simple contrivance is all that is necessary to accomplish the object. The threads which run longitudinally, or from end to end of the piece, and which are called the *warp*, must be arranged evenly side by side : there must then be some contrivance, first to raise every alternate thread, and therefore half the threads which form the warp ; second, to pass the thread which forms the *weft* between the alternate threads so raised ; and lastly, to strike home the thread or weft so passed through. The process is then repeated by depressing the half of the threads previously raised, and raising the half previously depressed, by again passing the weft through and striking it home ; and so on, till the whole warp is completely wefted. The instrument for effecting this is called a loom.

“ The art of weaving from spun yarn is of very remote antiquity. From the nations of the East, a knowledge of weaving gradually spread to the West, where it has rapidly improved, while in the East it remains nearly where it was in

the most ancient times, and the very perfect state of the manufacture shows with what very rude instruments it is possible to produce the most perfect plain fabrics."* Baines, in his "History of the Cotton Manufacture," gives the following curious account of the looms now used in Hindostan, and the mode of weaving, taken from Martin's "Circle of the Mechanical Arts," and Mill's "History of British India."

"The loom consists merely of two bamboo rollers, one for the warp and another for the web, and a pair of gear: the shuttle performs the double office of shuttle and batten; and for this purpose is made like a large netting needle, and of a length somewhat exceeding the breadth of the piece.† This apparatus the weaver carries to a tree, under which he digs a hole large enough to contain his legs and the lower part of the gear; he then stretches his warp by fastening his bamboo roller at a due distance from each other on the turf by wooden pins; the balances of the gear he fastens to some convenient branch of the tree over his head; two loops underneath the gear, in which he inserts his great toes, serve instead of treadles, and his long shuttle, which always performs the office of batten, draws the weft through the warp, and afterwards strikes it up close to the web."‡

"There is not so much as an expedient for rolling up the warp; it is stretched out at the full length of the web, which makes the house of the weaver insufficient to contain him; he is therefore obliged to work continually in the open air, and every return of inclement weather interrupts him.¶ Forbes describes the weavers in Guzerat, near Baroche, as 'fixing their looms at sun-rise under the shade of tamarind and mango trees.' In some parts of India, however, as on the banks of the Ganges, the weavers work under the cover of their sheds, fixing the gear of their looms to a bamboo in the roof."

"The common European loom, (resuming our extract from the Encyclopædia) which is one stage in advance of the rude

* The shuttle is not always this length. Hoole, in his "Mission to India," represents it as requiring *to be thrown*, in which case it must be short; and a drawing of a Candyar weaver, in the Magazine of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, shows the shuttle of the same size as the English.

† Martin's Circle of the Mechanical Arts, p. 239.

‡ Mill's History of British India, book ii. ch. viii.

¶ Encyclopædia Britannica, vol. xxi. p. 823.

loom of the Hindu, has been essentially the same for centuries. The loom itself, indeed, remains unaltered, and it is only in the mode of throwing the shuttle that any improvement has taken place. Of that improvement we shall presently speak.

“The loom consists, first, of a strong frame-work of four upright posts, with beams at top from post to post, something like a four-post bedstead; it is further strengthened by two longitudinal pieces of wood, in which the parts rest, with two similar pieces about half-way up, with cross pieces at each end; these form the frame-work of the loom, and it is obvious that their arrangement is of little moment.

“The essential parts of the loom consist, 1st, of the apparatus for stretching the warp; 2nd, the simple contrivance for raising half the strings of the warp and depressing the other half, so as to open a space for the weft to be cast through; 3rd, the instrument for casting the weft between the opened threads of the warp; and 4th, for striking it home.

“At one end of the frame above described, is a beam called the warp-beam, round which the longitudinal yarns which form the warp are wound; this beam is in some better-made looms, a well rounded roller, but in the looms generally in use, even at this time, it is but rudely rounded; it has, in fact, the appearance of an originally square beam, with the edges roughly taken off.

“At the other end of the loom is another and corresponding beam, called the cloth-beam, on which the woven portion of the cloth is wound. This cloth-beam is generally more carefully constructed than the warp-beam; it is furnished with a rack-wheel for the purpose of *letting in* or winding on the cloth, as portions of it become woven. This keeps it in a state of tension, with the aid of a pulley, sometimes an iron weight, but often a stone, slung over the warp-beam. As the web is wound on the cloth-beam, the unwoven warp is of course wound off the warp-beam, the whole being kept distended during the progress of the work.

“We now come to the arrangement for raising the threads or yarns of the warp, half-and-half alternately. Slung across two pulleys at the top of the frame-work of the loom, are two pieces of wood, called, with the apparatus attached to them,

heddles: these pieces of wood are of length just equal to the breadth of the cloth to be woven. If the warp consists of 100 yarns or threads, each of these heddles has fifty pieces of twine descending about a foot below the warp, with a loop or eye-let hole, through each of which a thread of the warp passes alternately; the hanging ends of these pieces of twine are attached to two pieces of wood similar to the heddles, and are made fast to two treadles, so that when one treadle is pressed down with the weaver's foot, half the yarns of the warp will be raised and the other depressed, so as to give to the warp the opening which on a side view has the appearance of an elongated lozenge. This opening is called the *shed*, and should be about two inches between the yarns.

"It is in the *shuttle*, the instrument for passing the weft between the opened warps, and the *batten*, or instrument for striking the weft home, that the great difference between the Hindu and the European loom consists. The Hindu shuttle was, and we believe still is, in form like a long netting needle, as already mentioned, and when the weaver has passed the weft, the same instrument serves him to beat it home; but in a European loom they are distinct instruments, though intimately connected in the same portion of the loom. We shall now describe both.

"The *batten*, which is also called the *lay*, or *lathe*, consists of a moveable swing frame, suspended to a cross-bar, resting easily upon the upper bars of the loom; from this cross beam descend two *swords*, as they are called, at the bottom of which is a sort of shelf, called the *shuttle-race*: the two ends of this shuttle-race are closed up at the sides, so as to form short troughs, in which two moveable pieces of wood called pickers, or peckers, traverse along pieces of wire extending only the length of the two troughs, or each about one quarter of the length of the batten. To each of these two pickers is fastened a string, both strings loosely meeting at a handle which is held in the right hand of the weaver. When the shuttle is in one of the troughs, a small jerk or pull at the picker projects the shuttle along the shuttle-race, and another sharp jerk or pull in the contrary direction, projects it the other way. Formerly the shuttle was thrown by the hand, but about one hundred years ago, the picker or fly-shuttle was

invented by Mr. John Kay, of Bury, in Lancashire; but it was opposed by the workmen, and not generally adopted for some time after. It nearly doubled the produce of a man's labour.

“ The *reed* is a frame with pieces of cane or wire fixed at equal distances upon the shuttle-race, and not unlike a comb in appearance. The canes or wires of the reed are called the *dents*, (no doubt from the word dents—teeth); the yarns of the warp pass between them, and they serve to keep the work even, and to strike home the work evenly; the reed is kept firmly in its place by a piece of wood fitting closely over it; this is called the cap or lay cap, and the weaver, while working, holds it firmly grasped in his left hand.

“ The shuttle is a small piece of wood, pointed at each end, and hollowed in the middle, to contain the bobbin of yarn which is to form the weft. There is a small hole at the side of the shuttle called the eye, through which the yarn runs freely at each pick or jerk of the picker. On the under side of the shuttle are two small wheels, traversing very freely on their axes, on which the shuttle travels to and fro along the shuttle-race.

“ Preliminary to the operation of weaving, there is much to be done in the way of preparation, which it is necessary that we should describe.

“ The yarn, as it comes from the spinner, whether intended for the warp or weft, is usually in hanks of a known length. The yarn destined for the warp is wound off upon little spools of wood called bobbins; for this purpose the hank is placed upon a reel, from which it is wound upon the bobbin by a child.

“ The next process is that of warping, which is simply stretching the number of threads necessary to form the warp equally, and laying them parallel to each other. This is usually done by means of a warping mill, as it is generally called, which consists of two parts, namely, a vertical frame or rack, in which the bobbins are placed, and the reel on which the warp is wound. The vertical frame is constructed so as to allow about fifty bobbins to be so fixed as to revolve easily, and as to keep the yarn as it leaves the bobbin at equal distances. The several yarns are then brought to a focus, as it

were, and made to pass through what is called a heck box, whence it is wound round a large reel, so constructed in point of size as to gauge or measure off the warp. The reel is six feet in diameter, and seven or eight feet in height, and is made to revolve by an endless rope passing round two wheels,—one of them is turned by the warper. In order that the warp may be wound spirally on the reel, the heck box containing the rollers which guide the yarns is made to rise and fall by a simple contrivance: it is made to slide up and down one of the upright supporters of the reel, by being suspended from a cord, which, passing over a wheel or pulley, winds round the axle of the reel, or is unwound according to the way in which the reel is turned. One-sixth part of the warp is usually wound off the bobbins at once. When the first portion of yarn is wound off, the clue or end of the yarn is crossed over pins projecting from the frame of the reel, and the reel is turned the reverse way, so that the yarn from the next set of bobbins descends by the descending motion of the heck box containing the guide rollers; this process is repeated backwards and forwards until the whole warp is completed, when it is taken from the reel and wound upon a stick into a bundle or large ball, the different doublings of the successive portions of the warp, as above described, forming separate crossings, in appearance not unlike a ball of lamp cotton on a gigantic scale. The equal portions of the warp aid the weaver in counting the yards thereof.

“ Besides this division, the warp mill makes another, which separates the yarns alternately, so as to facilitate their alternate arrangement in the geer or heddles. In the heck box, as we have already explained, are the guide pins, which conduct the yarns from the vertical frame to the reel; the operation of these pins it is almost impossible to understand distinctly without examination. The pins are inserted in two separate pieces of wood alternately: one piece of wood is raised by a handle for the purpose, which raises the alternate yarns; this occasions a space or division between the two sets of yarns, in which a wooden peg is placed; the other set of yarns is then raised by similar means, and the result is that the alternate yarns are crossed over the ends of the in-

intermediate yarns. This is called the lease, and is carefully tied up so as to guide the weaver when he beams the warp.

“ In the state in which the warp is wound off the reel, as just described, it is delivered to the weaver, but before he winds it on the warping beam, it must be sized ; this consists in treating the warp with some glutinous solution, size or starch for instance, the object being to render the yarn or threads of the warp smooth and even for wefting. This is done sometimes by the hand, and sometimes by a machine. Generally it is dipped into a warm size, and squeezed by the hands, and dipped again until it is thoroughly soaked through. The machines in use merely imitate this process, the yarns being dipped, and passed through rollers twice or thrice, by which the size or starch is introduced into the interstices of the yarn. It is then dried ; when thus dried, the yarn is ready for the loom.

“ The perfect equality of tension to which the warp is subjected in the loom, is of the greatest importance to the perfection of the cloth ; if some of the yarns be looser than the rest, the cloth will be of unequal strength, and uneven to the eye, and its value will be less in proportion. The first operation towards extending the warp is framing or winding it on the warp-beam ; equality of tension much depends on skilful beaming. In order that the warp may be laid evenly on the beam, an instrument is used similar to the reel already described, except that it is not so fine. It is called a ravel or separator, and is composed of strips of cane fastened into a rail of wood, and secured at the upper part or extremities of the teeth by another part of wood called the cape ; this cape is moveable, and before it is put on, the yarns of the warp are passed between the teeth of the ravel, and the cape is put down to secure the yarns in their places ; this being done, the warp is gradually and carefully wound upon the beam in the order in which it is destined to be wound off in the process of weaving.

“ The warp being now upon the beam, every yarn has to be passed through a loop or eye of the heddles ; this is called drawing. Two rods of wood are first inserted into what is called the lease ; that is, the two crossings formed by the

guide-pins of the warping mill as already described ; these rods are tied firmly together at the ends, the original ties are cast off, and the warp is spread out to its proper breadth ; the effect of these lease rods is to keep the alternate yarns which pass through the heddle from the intermediate yarns which pass through the other.

“ The warp beam is suspended behind the heddles, and the passing of the yarn through the loops is done by two persons, the weaver and his assistant. The former being in front of the heddle opens the loops ; and the latter, selecting the proper thread, which we have explained, cannot well be mistaken, delivers it to be drawn through the open loop or eye. This being done, the yarns are drawn through the reed by a hook, called the reed hook, or sley. Two threads pass through each interval of the reed, the one below, and the other above the warp ; and in order to preserve this division, there is another rod of wood which divides the warp into what are called *spitfuls*, the division being just the reverse of the lease rods. By these several contrivances, the threads of the warp are so easily distinguished, that if one break in the course of weaving,—a very common occurrence in the case of a break warp,—it is easily traced and taken up.

“ The distinct operations performed by the weaver are as follow :—

“ 1. The treadle is pressed down by the foot, so as to raise one heddle and depress the other ; this must be done with force duly proportioned to the work in the loom. Too strong a pressure on the treadle subjects the yarns of the warp to unnecessary friction, both from the heddles and the reeds, and also to undue stress of the warps : the threads or yarns consequently break, and this is one of the great causes of delay, and of the small earnings of some weavers compared with others.

“ 2. The weft is now shot by the jerk of the picker already described, and although swift wefting is a great object with the weaver, it must not be attained by the mere force of the shot or pick, as that would cause the shuttle to recoil, and bring back, and therefore loosen the yarn, of the weft.

“ 3. The weft is beaten close by the batten or lay. Here again the degree of force is of the utmost importance, and

this is a matter of extreme difficulty to regulate, because the wrought portion of the web is wound on the cloth-beam at intervals, so that as the wefting proceeds, the arc described by the batten is diminished, and the force of the stroke becomes less and less ; the cloth should be taken up as frequently as possible, so as to preserve the equality of the wefting.”*

Figure Weaving.—Having given an account of the nature and process of plain weaving, we must notice the fanciful and ornamental part of the business. Figures or patterns are produced therein by employing threads of different colours, or of different appearance in the warp, or in the weft. By the weaving, the threads must be so disposed, that some colours will be concealed and kept at the back, whilst others are kept in the front, and they must occasionally change places, so as to show as much of each colour, and as often as is necessary to make out the figure of the pattern.

The weaver has three means of effecting such changes of colour. First, by using different coloured threads in the warp, or threads of different sizes or substances : these are arranged in the warping, and require no change in the manner of weaving ; this is confined to striped patterns, the stripes being in the direction of the length of the piece.

Secondly, by employing several shuttles charged with threads of different colours or substances, and changing one for another every time a change of colour is required ; this makes stripes across the breadth of the piece, or when it is combined with a coloured warp, it makes a chequered and spotted pattern of great variety.

Thirdly, by employing a variety of heddles, instead of two, each heddle having a certain portion of the warp allotted to it, and provided with a treadle. When this treadle is depressed, only a certain portion of yarns which belong to the heddle will be drawn up, and the rest will be depressed, consequently, when the weft is thrown, all those yarns which are thrown up will appear on the front or top of the cloth, but in the intervals between them the weft must appear over those threads which are depressed : the number of threads thus brought up may be varied as often as the weaver chooses to

press his foot upon a different treadle, and by that he produces the pattern. All these may be combined together, and give the weaver the means of representing the most complicated patterns, and the only check to this is the want of force possessed by a single weaver to work a large number, and the inconvenient manner in which they would crowd the space of an ordinary loom. To remedy these inconveniences, the draw-loom was formerly very generally resorted to, and it is now used to a very considerable extent in weaving carpets and figured damasks; but the draw-loom has of late years been, to a considerable extent, superseded by the *Jacquard* engine, so named from its inventor, a weaver of Lyons. It is not too much to say that this machine, simple in fact, though complicated in its appearance, has raised the silk manufactures of Spitalfields to their present state of excellence. Until the introduction of this machine, the production of the superior figured silks depended wholly on the skill of the weaver, and that to a degree which few attained; the necessity of extreme carefulness and skill is now considerably diminished; in other words, the production of the most costly fabrics is laid open to a large number of operatives.

The *Jacquard* engine may be attached to almost any loom, and is generally owned by the manufacturer, and is furnished to the weaver with the warp.

These looms were introduced into Yorkshire in the weaving of figured and flowered stuffs, by the late Mr. James Akroyd, of Halifax. The manufacture of moreens was also brought there by him and his brother, Mr. Jonathan Akroyd; they next imitated the article of cotton jeans, in worsted, with success, to which they gave the name of plain-backs, out of which has sprung that immense and valuable branch of merinos. They also introduced the mode of weaving stuff damasks, and were the first to use the *Jacquard* engine in Yorkshire. To Messrs. Akroyd's ingenuity and perseverance the stuff trade is highly indebted.

The state of the woollen and worsted manufactures cannot be properly concluded without the following reports as to the condition of the people employed, and the wages now earned.

The table is from Mr. Miles's "Report on the Condition of the Hand Loom Weavers of the West of England."

416 RATE OF WAGES—DECREASE OF MANUFACTURES.

Statement of the Average Wages of Different Classes of Work-people connected with the Manufacture of Woollen Cloth, in the County of Gloucester, from 1808 to 1838, showing the Decrease per Cent. in the Wages of each Class.

Description of Work-people.	By whom the labour is performed	Amount of the Wages paid in the Year.							
		1808 to 1815	1816 to 1818	1819 to 1822	1823 to 1825	1826 to 1828	1829 to 1831	1832 to 1838	
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
Horters	Men.	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	
Housers	Men.	15 0	15 0	14 0	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0	
Heaters and Pickers ..	Women.	8 0	7 0	6 0	6 0	5 6	5 6	5 6	
Engins Men	Men.	...	...	24 0	24 0	24 0	24 0	24 0
Knoblers to Meribblers.	Children	4 0	4 0	3 6	3 0	3 0	3 0	3 0	
Ditto to Carders	Children	4 0	4 0	3 6	3 6	3 6	3 6	3 6	
Roller-joiners	Children	3 0	3 0	3 0	3 0	2 6	2 6	2 0	
Mulher, or Alb Spin- ner	Men.	24 0	23 0	22 0	21 0	20 0	20 0	17 0	
Spinner at Jenny	Women.	14 0	14 0	12 0	10 0	8 0	7 0	6 0	
Mule Spinner	Men.	...	...	25 0	25 0	22 0	22 0	22 0
Ditto Piecers	Women.	...	...	6 0	5 0	5 0	5 0	5 0
Warpers	Women.	10 0	9 0	8 0	7 0	7 0	7 0	7 0	
Masters' Weavers & { Factory Weavers ... }	Men and Women.	16 0	16 0	13 0	12 0	11 0	10 0	10 0	
Milliners	Men.	21 0	21 0	20 0	20 0	20 0	20 0	20 0	
Hurlers	Women.	10 0	10 0	10 0	7 0	6 0	6 0	6 0	
Howers or Roughers...	Men.	21 0	24 0	24 0	24 0	24 0	24 0	24 0	
Dyers	Men.	24 0	24 0	20 0	18 0	16 0	14 0	12 0	
Cutters	Men.	21 0	20 0	20 0	18 0	16 0	14 0	13 0	
Brushers	Men.	15 0	15 0	15 0	14 0	14 0	14 0	14 0	
Markers and Drawers	Women.	10 0	10 0	9 0	9 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	
Pressers and Packers.	Men.	18 0	18 0	16 0	14 0	13 0	13 0	13 0	

It is lamentable to see the continuous fall in the rate of wages; it is still more lamentable to state the actual condition of the woollen manufacture at the present period, (1842,) which seems to have been brought to extreme depression, especially in the West of England, as shown by the following statement, made by a well-informed manufacturer.*

Mr. E. EDWARDS, Jun., of Bradford, Wiltshire, states,—

“ The decrease of the manufacture of broad cloth, which is the staple commodity of the town, is of a nature almost beyond belief. In the year 1820, or thereabouts, nineteen manufacturers carried on business there, producing in the aggregate 620 pieces of broad cloth in the week. The town was at that period in a happy and prosperous state,—every family had employment, and their wages were good. Fifteen shillings per week was the usual price of a man’s labour, whilst weavers and other artizans earned still higher wages. The contrast

* Mr. Edwards’s Statement at a meeting at Bath, 5th January, 1842.

now is of such a nature as it is fearful to contemplate, and such as I almost hesitate to declare. The manufacturers have diminished to two in number, and the quantity produced to one hundred pieces, or one-sixth of the quantity made twenty years ago. This change has not been the effect of any sudden convulsion,—it has been slow and gradual, one after another have dropped away.”

Similar statements were made of other towns and districts in the West of England. This most deplorable change will be in some degree accounted for in the concluding chapter.

“In the *Report* of Mr. Chapman, for the West Riding of Yorkshire, there is a detailed statement, from the weavers’ own lips, of the earnings of thirty-three individuals, ranging from 7s. 6d. per week to 26s., varying according to age, strength, industry, and skill. These varying circumstances are stated, and certainly give a better view of the possible and actual earnings of men than any statement of averages. But although an average may be fallacious, it may be serviceable to ascertain at what points in the scale the largest number of cases occur. We find it stated that—

4 earned above 20s.	9 from 16s. to 20s.	13 from 12s. to 16s.
4 10s. to 12s.	3 under 10s.	

“As the manufacture of the West Riding improved, the quantity of wool was much increased, without any increase of price, so that the weekly earnings are said greatly to have diminished within the last twenty years. Wages in Yorkshire are paid by the *string*, a measure of ten feet,—being higher according to the *set*, as it is called, that is, the number of *porteths*, or thirty-eight threads of warp in the width. Thus eighty is deemed a medium set, and has now 22,800 yards of weft in each string, or 5,700 picks or shoots; whereas in 1817 the same set had only 12,540 yards, or 3,135 picks. The effect of this increased wefting, the necessary consequence of the improvement in the manufacture, upon wages, is shown in the following table :—

Years.	Weight of Wett per String.	Number of Skeins per String.	Number of Yrds. of Wett per String.	Price paid for Weaving per String.	Average Weekly Earnings.
	lbs. oz.			s. d.	£. s. d.
1817 to 1822	2 12	8	12,540	1 10	1 4 0
1822 to 1827	3 —	9½	14,440	2 0	1 0 0
1827 to 1832	3 4	12	18,240	2 0	0 15 0
1832 to 1837	3 8	15	32,800	2 1	0 9 0

“The wages of the several operatives employed in October, 1838, in the establishment of Messrs. Hindes and Derham, were as follows, weekly :—

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Wool sorters	1	6	3½ to	1	10	0
Ditto overlooker.....				1	10	0
Combers by hand	0	14	9 „	1	6	6
Ditto overlookers 28s., with a } house worth £5				1	13	0
Ditto by machine (boys)	0	4	0 „	0	10	0
Ditto overlooker.....				1	4	0
Washers, (paid by the week, not } by the job).....				0	18	0
Preparers at the drawing frames } (girls).....	0	6	6 „	0	7	0
Spinners, girls under 13	0	1	6 „	0	2	0
Ditto over 13	0	3	0 „	0	6	0
Overlookers, both departments...	0	18	0 „	1	1	0
Reelers, girls and women.....	0	8	5 „	0	13	9
Bunchers, who make up the hanks } into packets, girls and women..	0	7	6 „	0	8	0
Men who are overlookers.....	0	18	0 „	1	4	0
Packers, men				0	18	0
Engineman				1	4	0
Fireman				0	16	0

“ But the most important feature in the condition of the weavers, as pointed out in Mr. Chapman’s report, is, that in 1800, and for some years after, money wages were as low, and perhaps lower, than in 1838 ; that about 1804, or 1806, wages advanced ; that they continued high until 1815 or 1816, since which time they have declined, but not quite to the point they were in 1800. The following statement confirms this view :—

Weekly earnings of a skilful worsted weaver, from 1787 to 1838 : —In 1787, 10s. ; 1800, 10s. ; 1804, 17s. ; 1814, 34s. 6d. ; 1815, 31s. 6d. ; 1820, 21s. ; 1822, 24s. ; 1824, 21s. ; 1829, 20s. ; 1831,

18s.; 1833, 17s.; 1834, 16s.; 1835, 15s. 6d.; 1836, 15s. 6d.; 1837, 14s.; and 1838, 12s. 6d.

"The high wages which prevailed from 1804 to 1815 arose entirely out of the improvements in spinning. The quantity of yarn was so great, that it was difficult to get weavers, and they were enabled to make their own terms; but the profits of weaving soon increased the supply of weavers. Children were extensively taught to weave; and, as in the case of cotton and worsted, in which the work is light, the labour of the parent was soon transferred to the child. In the case of woollen cloth, however, this could not take place. Cloth weaving is emphatically a man's work; so that the cloth weaver's wages are as much as those of the worsted and cotton weaver put together, the average proportion being as 15s., 9s., and 6s. per week.

"But a comparative statement of mere money wages does not inform us respecting the improving, stationary, or retrograde condition of the operative. For that purpose, we must ascertain the command he has over the necessities, comforts, and conveniences of life: in this, the following table will aid us:—

A statement of the Prices of various Articles of Food and Household Stores for the use of Greenwich Hospital, from 1800 to 1835.

Year.	Flesh per cwt.	Flour per sack.	Butter per lb.	Cheese per lb.	Out-meal per bush.	Salt per bush.	Beer per brl.	Candies per doz. lb.	Price of Chelsea Rations.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1800	3 4 6	4 16 0	0 11½	0 6½	14 6	—	—	—	0 8
1810	3 12 6	4 8 4	1 1½	0 8½	11 7	—	—	—	0 11
1815	3 8 0	2 4 9	1 2	0 8	10 3	19 9	15 4½	11 7	1 0
1820	3 16 4½	2 15 1	0 9½	0 7	13 4	19 9	15 10½	8 2½	1 0
1825	2 19 6½	2 13 4	0 10½	0 5½	17 5	2 10	16 6½	6 0	0 11½
1830	2 3 6	2 14 11	0 6½	0 6½	16 11	1 8	19 6½	5 3½	0 8½
1835	2 0 7½	1 11 0½	0 7½	0 4	14 6	1 3	13 9½	5 2	0 7½

"From this table it appears that every article in which the operatives' wages are expended, is considerably cheaper now than at an earlier period; and if we could collect a similar comparative table of the price of clothing, the saving would be more conspicuous. In 1800 a week's wages would purchase one-seventy-first of a bushel of wheat, or 17½ lbs. of flesh, or 15 Chelsea rations; in 1837 a week's wages would purchase one-sixty-fourth of a bushel of wheat, or 34 lbs. of flesh, or 20 Chelsea rations, the ration consisting of one

day's food for a man. On so much of the weaver's earnings as he expends in butter, cheese, salt, candles, &c., there is a saving of about forty per cent., and on his clothing much more, so that 10s. in 1800 was certainly no more than 6s. 8d. at the present time.

“ The manufacturer's moral condition has improved with his physical condition. He is careful to educate his children to the full extent of his means; he evinces self-respect in all the relations of life, and therefore commands the respect of others. The legislature and the government have also of late years done much to elevate and improve his condition. The various provisions for the regulation of factories bring the employer under a system of necessary superintendence.

“ In all other respects machinery has done much for the improvement of the operatives, and that in two ways. First, the better tool gives better wages; and second, cheap production daily gives the working millions an increased command over the necessaries and comforts of life. It has been the fate of every machine to be opposed at its introduction; but as the working classes are almost always honest in their opposition, many of the machines which were most opposed, are now most cherished. Nor ought this to excite surprise. The first view of a machine seems to threaten the displacement of labour, and it is only at a second and closer view that the labourer himself finds labour facilitated, production increased, and, in one way or another, fresh labour employed by more than the labour at first displaced, and as all improvements are adopted gradually, it generally happens that the increased employment anticipates the labour displaced. Can any one doubt that this has been the case with regard to the improvements in spinning? It is to these great improvements that we owe our pre-eminence in manufactures.”*

The quantity of cloth manufactured in Yorkshire annually from 1726 to 1820, when it ceased to be registered, is given in a table at the end of this volume.

Besides cloth according to the common process, a manufacture has been of late established to supersede spinning, and to make it entirely by felting; it is yet in its infancy. Wool

* *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Ed. 1841, vol. 21, pages 936, &c.

is also manufactured by felting into hats, and it is used in the manufacture of coatings, cassimeres, hosiery, carpets, baize, and flannels; in the last two articles, and some fancy goods, cotton warps have been introduced, which reduce the cost as well as the consumption of sheep's wool.

Stockings, in the time of Henry VIII., were made of pieces of cloth sewed together. Knitting was introduced, it is supposed, from Spain, in the time of Queen Elizabeth, by William Rider, in 1564. The frame or machine for weaving stockings is attributed by some to Will Lee, M.A., of St John's College, Cambridge, about the year 1589. Others have given the credit of the invention to a student at Oxford, at a much later date. Aaron Hill, in his *Account of the Rise and Progress of the Beech Oil Invention*, printed 1715, says that "A student at Oxford was driven to it by dire necessity. This young man, falling in love with an innkeeper's daughter, married her, though she had not a penny, and he by his marriage lost his fellowship. They soon fell into extreme poverty, and their marriage produced the consequences naturally to be expected from it; the amorous pair became miserable, not so much on account of their sufferings, as from the melancholy dread of what would become of their yet unborn infant. Their only means of support were the knitting of stockings, at which the woman was very expert. But sitting constantly together from morning to night, and the scholar, often fixing his eyes with stedfast observation on the motion of his wife's fingers, in the dexterous management of her needles, he took it into his imagination that it was not impossible to contrive a little loom, which might do the work with much more expedition. This thought he communicated to his wife, and joining his head to her hands, the endeavour succeeded to their wish. Thus the ingenious stocking-loom, which is so common now, was first invented, by which he not only made himself and his family happy, but left his nation indebted to him."*

Carpets have been for ages known in the East; this manufacture is now carried on here on a very extensive scale, both for home and foreign demand.

* Rees's Cyclopædia, Article—Hosiery.

CHAPTER XIII.

Retrospective Glance at the Rise and Progress of the Woollen Trade—Early existence of the Woollen Trade in Great Britain and Ireland—Flemish Manufacturers introduced by William the Conqueror and Henry I.—Location of the Flemings—Cloth Fair established by Henry II.—Extension of the Manufacture in this Reign—Decrease in the Reign of John, Henry III., Edward I. and Edward II.—Flourishes under Edward III.—Account of it, from “Fuller’s Church History”—Subsequent Fluctuations—Location of the Woollen Trade in the Reign of Geo. III.—Impetus given to it by the formation of Roads and Canals—Fine Cloth Manufacture in Yorkshire—Reflections on Causes tending to foster or depress Manufactures—Lord Grenville’s Speech on the Freedom of Commerce—Decline of Manufactures in Wiltshire—in Gloucestershire—General decline—Imputed to restrictions on Trade—Appeal to British Statesmen—Imputations on Manufacturers repelled—Still unexhausted Resources of British Commerce.

HAVING brought this compilation to a close, and endeavoured to give with impartiality the information and arguments of different writers, as well as the discussions and enactments of the legislature, it may be proper, in conclusion, to revert to some of the subjects which have been dwelt upon, to look back to the early state of the manufacture, and to consider the present state and future prospects of the woollen and worsted manufactures of the kingdom.

It has been a common opinion that the woollen manufacture took its rise in Great Britain with the persecutions in the Netherlands, when the Flemish manufacturers, driven from their native country by the cruelty of the Duke of Alva, in the latter part of the sixteenth century, found an asylum, with protection and encouragement, in England; and that it was greatly extended by the protestant refugees from France, on the revocation of the edict of Nantz, in 1685. There is no doubt that these accessions of skilful manufacturers gave a great impulse to the woollen trade, though much more to the silk manufacture; but it is on record, that the woollen branch flourished some centuries earlier in many parts of Great Britain and Ireland. There is even reason to believe that the more civilised Britons were clothed in woollen fabrics at the time of the Roman conquest; for Cæsar observes, that

the distant and less civilised Britons were clothed in skins, from which it may be inferred, that the nearer and more civilised had clothing of a better and more comfortable kind, and that could scarcely be any other than woollen cloth.* So early as the commencement of the sixth century, the common article of dress in Great Britain and Ireland was a cloak or plaid (*peplum pellium sagum*) adorned with a variety of colours, which was probably of home manufacture.† This, however, is conjecture only; the first authentic record of the woollen manufacture states that it was established by the Flemings in the reign of William the Conqueror and Henry I., when a vast number were obliged to quit their own country by an encroachment of the sea, and came to England in the year 1111, hoping for settlement and protection from the influence of the Queen, who was from their country. William, glad of such an accession of foreigners, stationed a great number of them upon the northern frontiers, chiefly about Carlisle, and others throughout the rest of the country. King Henry, finding that the Flemings did not well agree with his other subjects, transplanted the whole of them to a district taken from the Welsh, called Roa, now a part of Pembrokeshire. They were a brave, hardy people, equally qualified to handle the plough and the sword, and they were also skilful in the woollen manufacture, the great staple of their country; so that in every respect they were a most valuable colony, whether considered as a barrier against the enemy, or the first founders of the manufacture of fine woollens in England.‡

Henry II. granted a fair for the clothiers and dressers to be held in the church yard of Bartholomew Priory, near Smithfield, for three days, which spot still retains the name of Cloth Fair. It appears, also, that towards the end of the reign of that king, the woollen manufacture was widely extended over the whole kingdom; for, besides the colony of Flemish weavers in Wales, who were probably the instructors of the rest, and the company or guild of weavers established in London, it appears there were similar companies of the same trade in Oxford, York, Nottingham, Huntingdon, Lincoln, and Winchester; and all of them, agreeably to the

* Macpherson's *Annals of Commerce*. † Adamnan's *vita Columbae*, c. 1.

‡ William of Malmesbury, p. 848.

policy of the age, paid fines to the king for the privilege of carrying on their manufactures exclusive of all other towns.* But there were dealers in Bedford, in Beverley, and other towns of Yorkshire, in Norwich, Huntingdon, Northampton, Gloucester, Nottingham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Lincoln, Stamford, Grimsby, Barton, St. Albans, Baldock, Birkhamstead, and Chesterfield, who paid fines to the king that they might freely buy and sell *dyed* cloth; some of their licences also contained a permission to sell cloths of any breadth whatever.* Henry II., in the 31st year of his reign, gave the weavers of London a confirmation of their guild, with all the freedom they enjoyed in the reign of Henry I., and in the patent directed that if any weaver mixed Spanish wool with English in making cloth, the chief magistrate of London should burn it.† Sir Matthew Hale says, that in the reign of Henry II. this island greatly flourished in the art of manufacturing woollen cloths, but by the troublesome wars in the times of King John, Henry III., Edward I. and Edward II. this manufacture was wholly lost, and all our trade ran out in wool, woolfels, and leather. Edward III. revived it, and it continued advancing during the reigns of Richard II. and Henry IV. A law was passed 12 Richard II. c. 14, in which it was enacted that striped cloths made in Bristol and the counties round it, should be agreeable to the law of the year 1373 in length and breadth. This law shows that the country around Bristol was then, as it ever since has continued to be, a chief seat of the clothing trade. Corry, in his history of Bristol, gives a curious account extracted from Fuller's Church History.‡ After this reign it again declined exceedingly, and did not thoroughly revive till the reigns of Edward VI. and Elizabeth.

* Madox's Hist. Exchequer, vol. x. page 5.

† Stow's History of London, page 515.

‡ "During his military preparations, Edward summoned a Parliament, the principal business of which was to make laws for the encouragement and regulation of the woollen manufacture in England. A general intercourse now existed between this country and the maritime states of Europe, particularly Genoa, Spain, France, Flanders, and Norway. Of this trade Bristol and Exeter possessed a very considerable proportion; but when Edward III. ascended the throne, our principal exports consisted of grain, tin, and wool. In the year 1332 the king granted a charter to the burgesses of Bristol, confirming the charters of his predecessors Henry III., Edward II., and John: he also confirmed the municipal laws digested by the magistracy for the government of the town.

From this mention of the woollen manufacture in Great Britain, it is evident that in very early times it was established over a large part of the island; and from the places from

"The inhabitants of Bristol also received several marks of royal favour from this prince, who was principally instrumental in the establishment of a profitable manufacture among them. His genius was alike calculated to promote the useful arts among the people, as to shine in the field. He had observed, during his journeys on the Continent, the successful industry of the French and Flemish manufacturers of woollen cloth, and therefore resolved to establish that beneficial trade in his native country. But as the art of manufacturing woollen cloth was but imperfectly known in England, he thought it expedient to encourage skilful workmen from Flanders, for the advantage of his English subjects. The circumstances of this important event are detailed in a very entertaining manner by an authentic historian—Fuller's Church history —

"The king and state began now to grow sensible of the great gain the Netherlands got by our English wooll. In memory thereof, the Duke of Burgundy not long after instituted the order of the Golden Fleece, wherein, indeed, the fleece was ours, the golden theirs, so vast their emolument from the trade in clothing. Our Edward III. therefore resolved, if possible, to revive the trade of his own country, who, as yet, were ignorant of that art, as knowing no more what to do with their wool than the sheep that wear it, as to any artificial and curious drapery, their best cloth being no better than freeze, such their coarseness for want of skill in their making. But soon after followed a great alteration, and we shall enlarge ourselves in the manner thereof.

"The intercourse being large betwixt the English and the Netherlands, (increased of late since King Edward married the daughter of the Earl of Hainault,) unsuspected emissaries were employed by our king with those countries, who brought them into familiarity with such Dutchmen as were absolute masters of their trade, but not masters themselves, as either journeymen or apprentices; these bemoaned the slavishness of their poor servants, whom their masters used rather like beasts than christians, yea, rather like horses than men, early up and late in bed, and all day hard work, and harder fare (a few herrings and mouldy cheese,) and all to enrich the churlish their masters, without any profit to themselves.

"But oh! how happy should they be, if they would but come over to England, bringing their mystery with them, which would provide them welcome in all places. Here they should feed on fat beef and mutton, till nothing but their fulness should stint their stomachs; yea, they should feed on the labours of their own hands, enjoying a proportionable profit of their gains to themselves; their beds should be good, and their bed-fellows better, seeing that the richest yeomen in England would not disdain to marry their daughters to them, and such English beauties, that the most curious foreigners could not but commend them.

"Liberty is a lesson quickly conned by heart; men have a principle within themselves to prompt them in case they forget it. Persuaded with the promises, many Dutch servants leave their masters, and make over for England. Their departure thence (being pickt here and there) made no sensible vacancy, but their meeting here altogether amounted to a considerable fulness. With themselves they brought over their trade and their tools, viz., such as could not (as yet) be so conveniently made in England.

"Happy the yeoman's house in which one of these Dutchmen did enter, bringing industry and wealth along with them. Such who came in strangers,

which fines were paid to the crown for the privilege of carrying it on, it would appear that districts were fixed upon ac-

within doors, soon after went out bridegrooms, and returned sons-in-law, having married the daughters of their landlords who first entertained them ; yea, those yeomen in whose houses they harboured, soon proceeded gentlemen, gaining them estates to themselves, arms and worship to their estates.

“ ‘ The king having gotten this treasury of foreigners, thought not fit to continue them all in one place, lest on discontent they might embrace a general resolution to return, but bestowed them through all parts of the land, that clothing thereby might be better dispersed. This new generation of Dutch was now sprinkled everywhere, so that England (in relation to her own counties) may bespeak them inmates in the language of the poet—

‘ Quæ regis in terris vestri non plena laboris :’

though generally (when left to their own choice) they preferred a maritime habitation.

EAST.	WEST.
1 Norfolk, Norwich—fustians. 2 Suffolk Sydbury—baize. 3 Essex, Colchester—says and serges. 4 Kent—Kentish broad cloth.	1 Devonshire—kerseys. 2 Gloucestershire—cloth. 3 Worcestershire—cloth. 4 Wales—Welch frizes.
NORTH.	SOUTH.
1 Westmoreland, Kendal—cloth. 2 Lancashire, Manchester—cottons. 2 Yorkshire, Halifax—cloths.	1 Somersetshire, Taunton—serges. 2 Hampshire—cloth. 3 Berkshire, do. 4 Sussex, do.

“ ‘ I am informed that a prime Dutch cloth maker in Gloucestershire had the surname of Web given to him by King Edward. There is a family still famous for their manufacture. Observe we here, that mid-England—Northamptonshire, Lincolnshire, and Cambridge—having most wool, had least of clothing therein.

“ ‘ Here the Dutchmen found fuller’s earth, a precious treasure, which of England hath (if not more) better than all Christendom besides, a great commodity of the quorums towards making good cloth, so that nature may seem to point out our land for the staple of drapery, if the idlenesse of her inhabitants be not the only hindrance thereto. This fuller’s earth is clean, contrary to our Jesuits, who are needless drugs, yet still staying here, though daily commanded to depart, whilst fuller’s earth, a precious ware, is daily scoured from hence, though by law forbidden to be transported.

“ ‘ And now was English wool improved to the highest profit, passing through so many hands, every one having a fleece of the fleece, sorters, kempers, carders, spinsters, weavers, fullers, diers, pressers, packers ; and those manufactures have been heightened to a higher perfection since the cruelty of the Duke of Alva drove over more Dutch to England.

“ ‘ But enough of this subject, which let none condemn for a deviation from church history ; first, because it could not grieve me to goe a little out of the way, if the way be good, as this digression is for the credit and profit of our country : secondly, it reductively belongeth to the Church History, seeing many poore people, both young and old, formerly charging their parishes, were thereby enabled to maintain themselves.’ ”—*Fuller’s Church History*, p. 110, 111, 112.

according to the facilities of getting the raw material and the existence of falls of water for their fulling mills; and the fabrics varied according to the qualities of wool produced in the neighbourhood, and the purity and softness of the water.

The woollen manufacture seems to have varied in its extension and decline for a very long period, but the same cause which occasioned its establishment in different places mentioned by Fuller in the note, where goods were made varying in quality and nature according to the description of wool grown in their neighbourhood, seems to have operated even so late as the reign of George II.

In vol. i. page 149 and following, the different places are mentioned, from which petitions were sent to Parliament in 1752, against the custom of branding sheep with pitch and tar; and the following will show the wide spread of the manufacture at that time, and the nature of their fabrics:—

- Leeds—Cloth, worsted yarn, camblets, callimancoes, stuffs.
- Halifax—Woollen goods.
- Norwich—Worsted yarn and worsted goods.
- Sudbury—Woollen manufacture, chiefly baize.
- Frome—Cloth.
- Beckington—Cloth.
- Culmstock—Serges.
- Colchester—Worsted yarn and baize.
- Wakefield—Cloth.
- Westbury, Heytesbury, Warminster—Cloth.
- Castle Heddingham, Sebble Heddingham, Halsted—Serges and baizes.
- Huntingdon, St. Ives, St. Neot's, and Kimbolton—woollens.
- Suffolk—Worsted yarn.
- Devizes—Cloth and German serges.
- Cirencester—Cloth and stuffs.
- Bradford, Birstal, Keighley, Guiseley, Calverley, Bingley—Cloth, shalloon, callimancoes.
- Bocking, Braintree—Baize.
- Andover—Cloth.
- Taunton—Cloth.
- Nottingham—Worsted manufacture and hosiery.
- Pendle, Colne, Burnley, Padiham, Donnen, Clithero, Whaley—Woollen goods.
- Tetbury—Stuffs.

Shaston—Woollen.

Wellington, Milverton—Serges and druggets.

Leicester—Hosiery.

Dorchester—Clothier.

Tiverton—Serges.

Stainbridge—Cloth.

Kidderminster—Clothiers.

Honiton—Serges.

Rochdale, Bury, Rossendale—Woollen goods.

Kendal—Clothiers, cottons, worsted hose, worsted yarn.

Coventry—Worsted and woollens.

Amongst the places thus enumerated, many are now no longer manufacturing districts, and in many of them it is almost forgotten that the manufacture was ever carried on there; and it becomes a proper subject of inquiry, why, in so short a period of time, it should have left those districts, and have been transferred to others in the same kingdom, governed by the same laws and enjoying the same privileges. There appears to be very little difficulty in accounting for these changes.

Previous to the reign of George III. the roads throughout the kingdom were extremely bad and almost impassable, so that it was very difficult to convey from place to place either bulky or heavy articles. Wheel carriages could be little used, and pack horses were the general means of conveyance; they even took their names from carrying packs of wool; and so late as Dyer's time it is said,*—

“ Pile the pack
“ On the long tinkling train,—the slow-paced steed.”

They had bells fastened upon them, in order that from the “tinkling” it might be ascertained where they might be found when traversing the hills and the moors. Even at a later date, pack-horses were in common use, and they are still employed in some hilly districts.

With this tedious mode of conveyance, as well for the raw materials as for the manufactured articles, it must be obvious that the manufacturer would fix as near as possible to those districts where wool was grown, and where he could find a

* Vide vol. i. page 170.

sale for his goods at no great distance from his dwelling. The nature of his fabrics would also be decided by the quality of the wool produced in his neighbourhood. In looking to the different places already enumerated, and the description of goods manufactured in each, these facts must be evident. Under these circumstances the manufacture naturally became strictly domestic, which prevented it from being carried on upon a very extensive scale, or in large buildings. The master gave employment to his neighbours and their families, who had looms in their cottages, while the children and servants worked under his own eye.

It must be evident that whatever tended to reduce the expense and to facilitate the mode of conveyance from one place to another, must tend to remove the manufacture from districts where proximity to the growth of the raw material had formerly been important, and to fix them where they had other advantages. The first circumstances which led to the transference of the manufactures from detached districts, spread over the whole surface of the island, and their concentration in towns and populous neighbourhoods, were the improvements in the public roads, and the introduction of canals, affording cheap and easy carriage. Turnpike roads began to be made in the early part of the reign of George III. The general turnpike act was passed in the thirteenth year of his reign, 1773; and almost simultaneously with that improvement in land carriage, canals began to be made. The Duke of Bridgewater's canal was commenced in 1760, and others, which particularly affected the woollen branches, immediately followed. The Aire and Calder Canal was begun about the same period. These modes of conveyance materially tended to remove manufactures, and fix them in the South of Lancashire and in the West Riding of the County of York; which, by means of those canals, had cheap access to Liverpool and Hull, for obtaining the raw materials from distant parts of the island, till then almost inaccessible, as well as from all parts of the world by means of our mercantile navy, and opening both domestic and foreign markets for their fabrics. The Duke of Bridgewater, by his judicious plan, his large capital, and his unwearied enterprise and perseverance in overcoming prejudices and difficulties, contributed much to

the industry and wealth of Lancashire ; while the projectors of the Aire and Calder navigation aided in the establishment of the woollen manufactures in Yorkshire. Both of these counties had also abundance of waterfalls ; and when the splendid inventions of the spinning machine and steam engine were afterwards introduced, they had, from their coal, iron, and limestone, the greatest facilities for constructing and working machinery.

After this time, with few exceptions, the coarse woollen manufacture was concentrated in Yorkshire and the borders of Lancashire ; while the manufacture of fine cloth, originally established where the finest English wools were produced, remained in the counties of Gloucester, Wilts, and Somerset, —having the advantage of Bristol, the sea-port then next in importance to London. When, from the altered quality of English wool and the altered taste of the country, finer cloth was required, the merchants of Bristol, trading with Spain and Portugal, brought from thence the fine wools of that Peninsula, which caused the manufacture of superfine cloth and other fabrics of the finest qualities to be continued and extended in the same counties. The manufacturers sent their goods to the Blackwell Hall factors in London, from whence they were sold and distributed over the whole of the kingdom.

The rise of the port of Liverpool, which gave to the Northern Counties increased advantages of communication with the Western hemisphere,—the introduction of merino sheep into the North of Europe, with the great and increasing production of the finest wools there (superior to those of Spain and Portugal), and whence there is such easy, cheap, and rapid communication through the port of Hull,—the additional advantages of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal,—and, more recently, the railroads branching out in every direction, as well inland as joining the sea-ports with the manufacturing districts,—all these local conveniences and advantages in the county of York, added to its abundance of coal and iron, more than counterbalanced the advantages which the West of England in former times enjoyed ; and in consequence, the manufacture of the finest fabrics has been transferred to Yorkshire, where, together with that of

the coarser articles, it is likely to be continued, unless this, in turn, should be superseded by other districts in this country; or, what is more to be feared, by other countries possessing greater advantages than we enjoy. At present, the country between Leeds on the East and Liverpool on the West, seems to comprise within itself peculiar advantages for carrying on manufactures, and, if released from legislative restriction and the artificial high price of food, may again become the "workshop of the world," not only for woollens and cottons, but other branches of our national industry. The manufactures of silk, linen, iron, earthenware, and leather are there established. Among the many causes which have imparted to Yorkshire and Lancashire their present superiority, perhaps no single cause has been more important than the navigable canals; and it is scarcely going too far to say, that the country is indebted to the Duke of Bridgewater and his fellow-projectors in inland navigation, for giving full scope to the comprehensive minds and enterprise of Arkwright in cotton, Gott in woollens, Marshall in linen, Wilkinson in iron, Wedgwood in earthenware, and, above all, Watt in the steam-engine. All these, without one exception, established themselves upon the banks or in the immediate neighbourhood of canals, and they are names which ought to go down to posterity as the greatest benefactors to their country, giving employment to an immense population.

It may be said that this is travelling out of the record; yet all the branches of manufactures are so connected, have such a common origin, and are so affected by each other, that it is difficult to speak of one without mentioning the rest.

It will be seen by this compilation, how generally the woollen manufacture was diffused through the whole of the kingdom; there is scarcely a county in Great Britain or Ireland where it was not formerly carried on, and in many of which it did not flourish, but where it has now ceased to exist, and even where it is almost forgotten that it ever did exist. Some have endeavoured to account for this change by the greater advantages for carrying it on possessed by some places and districts, compared with others. But other causes have proved, and ever will prove, fatal to manufactures: they require security of person and property; the arts of peace

cannot flourish in times of civil broils and foreign invasion. The manufactures of the Phœnicians, the Carthaginians, the Athenians, and the Rhodians ceased with the conquests or revolutions of those states. Civil and religious liberty are also of vital importance to manufactures; their rise, their extension, and their decline are simultaneous with the rise, extension, and decline of freedom.

The Republics of Italy were the seat of the woollen manufacture; how touchingly and pathetically Machiavelli depicts its loss at Florence.* But although the power and wealth of the Nobles rose by trade, they looked upon it with contempt; they despised and oppressed the industrious artizan and the enterprising merchant, forgetting the only true source of their own prosperity; and with the destruction of manufactures and trade, their power, wealth, and influence fell; while in Switzerland, under all the disadvantages of climate, soil, and situation, but blessed with freedom, manufactures spread and flourished.

Spain and Portugal, once so celebrated for their woollen manufacture and their extended commerce, lost them by the pride and ambition of their grandees, who were satisfied to see foreigners purchase the produce of their flocks, and despised their home manufacturers as classes inferior to themselves, and whose attention and ambition were also withdrawn from the sober and plodding pursuits of industry, and devoted to their conquests and their mines in South America. No country in the world possesses greater advantages for manufactures and trade than Spain: raw materials of every kind and of every quality, oils, and many descriptions of dyeing wares, are their native produce; their situation for foreign trade is admirable, with the finest and safest harbours; but there were wanting the blessings of civil and religious liberty. Priestcraft, with persecution, bigotry, and the Inquisition, were most ungenial to national industry. Nor were these evils confined to their own Peninsula; they were extended by the Duke of Alva to the Spanish dominions in the Netherlands, then the great workshop of the world, and by their baneful influence drove away the working classes to countries where, safe under the

* Vide Vol. i., page 42.

blessings of freedom, they could cultivate the arts of industry and peace.

These, as well as many other instances, show most clearly that manufactures cannot flourish, or even exist, under tyranny, despotism, and oppression. The mind which can invent improvements, and extend manufactures and commerce, cannot be fettered on any subject; it must have free course to range unshackled and unrestricted through every department of art and science, and from these derive information and advantage. The men whose names have been already mentioned as the immediate means of establishing or extending their own particular branches of manufacture, had enlarged views; they were superior to the drudgery of one branch, however important that was; they were well informed in history, mathematics, and other departments of knowledge, and brought those resources to bear upon their own objects and views. It was by the liberty they enjoyed that they were enabled to prosecute their studies, and carry out their improvements, which must go hand in hand with freedom.*

* The opinion of the late Lord Grenville, the friend and colleague of Mr. Pitt, and one of the most talented of the Statesmen of that day, when so many great statesmen lived, is so much in point, that its insertion cannot fail to be interesting.

Lord Grenville was Governor of the Levant Company, which had a charter granted to it by King James I. and confirmed by Charles II.; by which, according to the usages of those times, the Company had the appointment, and with that the cost, of maintaining the Consuls and other officers thought necessary for the protection of commerce in the Levant.

Mr. Canning, then Secretary for Foreign Affairs, (Mr. Huskisson being President of the Board of Trade,) wrote an official letter to Lord Grenville, dated from the Foreign Office, 29th January, 1825, stating the intention of Government to bring a Bill into Parliament for the better regulation of Consular establishments, and to transfer the Company's authority in these respects to the Crown, and concluding with the following intimation:—

“Having thus communicated to you the intention of Government, I might content myself with expressing my hope that you will readily acquiesce in a measure which has no other object than the advancement of the public interests, without prejudice to those of individuals, were it not that, feeling as I do, in common with every member of His Majesty's Government, an earnest desire to act in perfect harmony with the Company on this occasion, I cannot refrain from suggesting to your consideration, whether it may not be expedient to give up the remaining privileges of your charter, which, being no longer connected with the protection of public interests, may be deemed by Parliament and the public to be useless and injurious restrictions upon trade.”

A general Court of the Company met on the 11th February, 1825, to consider

But it is not civil and religious liberty alone that are essential to the prosperity of manufactures and trade; we have

the purport of that letter, at which it was resolved to surrender the charter; the compiler of this work, being a member of that Court, attended, and the following is extracted from the published speech of Lord Grenville:—

“ States and Empires partake of the instability of all human affairs. We know not what revolutions our own free and happy country may, in the lapse of ages, be destined to experience. But, whatever be her future fortune, one boast she still may make, one wreath she has for ever secured to herself of imperishable glory. In the history of the human mind, and through every successive advance which man has yet to make in valuable and useful knowledge, never will it be forgotten that here the first seeds were sown of that experimental and practical philosophy to which all subsequent improvements in science must trace back their origin. Never will it cease to be recorded that here also the first lessons were given, the first great example manifested to the world, of social institutions founded on the true basis of religious and civil liberty.

“ Nor is it a small addition to these benefits thus conferred upon mankind, nor will it lightly enhance the gratitude and admiration of posterity, that here also, in this favoured nursery of science and of liberty, and as the natural consequence of the joint cultivation and influence of both these inestimable blessings—here were first developed to statesmen and legislators the rights and the advantages of unrestricted trade. Whatever portion of human happiness shall hereafter result, and large, I trust, will that portion be, from the fixed establishment and universal diffusion of these great principles, from the undisturbed freedom of peaceful occupation, from the uncontrolled discretion in the application of each man's industry and capital, and from the open and unfettered intercourse of all the tribes and families of mankind; to Great Britain must all such blessings be referred: here first was it demonstrated that these are fundamental maxims of policy and justice, alike conducive to private happiness, productive of national prosperity, and consonant to all the rightful exercise of public legislation.

“ Nor is this all. To the glory of the discovery, to the merit of its first promulgation and establishment, we have now added the still higher praise of its general reception, its just and enlightened application. During a long and laborious public service, it has been my happiness repeatedly to concur, both in the preparation and in the adoption of detached but considerable experiments, in which these principles were practically and successfully exemplified. *

“ But I esteem myself fortunate indeed to have lived to see the time when our Sovereign and his Parliament have now, first among all the legislatures of the world, sanctioned them by a definitive and solemn recognition. They are no longer unprofitable and barren speculations, the vision of theorists dreaming in their closets of public happiness and public justice never to be realised; they are the rules by which the British Legislature has pledged itself from this time forth to

* Note inserted in the published copy of Lord Grenville's speech, if not by his Lordship, with his Lordship's approbation. “ The principal measures of this description, adopted before his present Majesty's reign, were the commercial treaty with France in 1786, that with the United States of America in 1794, the commercial arrangements of the union with Ireland in 1801, the opening of the corn trade between Great Britain and Ireland in 1806, and the partial opening of the East India trade in 1813. The restoration of our currency after the peace,—a measure of almost infinite importance and value,—was only the removal of a recent and professedly temporary but deeply calamitous public mischief. *Our Corn Laws, an evil of hardly less magnitude, still unhappily subsist.*”

seen that they have been transferred from place to place in the same country, even in our own country, where those inestimable blessings extend to all classes, the highest and the lowest. Districts and towns have been enumerated where they once flourished and are now unknown, and these changes have taken place in the memory of men now living. Great changes are still in progress, and it is most distressing to see the accounts of the state of those counties so lately celebrated for the manufacture of the finest fabrics. Mr. Edwards, at a public meeting at Bath in the month of January, 1842, stated—"At Bradford, in Wilts, the decrease of the manufacture of broad cloth, which is the staple commodity, is of a nature that is almost beyond belief. About the year 1620 nineteen manufacturers carried on business there, producing the aggre-

administer all the unmeasurable interests committed to its charge; they are the foundations on which is henceforward to be rested the whole commercial prosperity of the greatest commercial empire which the sun has ever yet enlightened.

"I need not recapitulate to those who now hear me what has recently been accomplished in this course, by measures well considered and therefore gradual, but the pledges, I trust, of a systematic and undeviating perseverance in the same wise and benevolent design. When compared with so much more which still remains to be performed, these indeed are but of small extent and limited operation. To judge rightly of their value, we must estimate them by the prejudices which were to be surmounted, and by the advantages of which they have already been productive. In those advantages you have yourselves partaken largely, and they have extended themselves to almost every other class of British merchants. And if in the long and honourable career which is still open to the adversaries of commercial restriction, monopoly, and preference, the same spirit shall animate, the same resolution uphold the legislature, of full and uncompromising effect be finally given to a system thus confirmed by experience, thus sanctioned by public applause,—not this age, nor this country alone, will have reason to bless our exertions. There is no period so remote, there is no nation so barbarous, in which we may not confidently anticipate that these successful researches of British philosophy, this auspicious example of British policy, will become, under the favour of Providence, a pure and ample source of continually increasing human happiness.

"The deep interest with which I view this prospect, and the glowing hopes which it excites, have led me much further than I had intended. I will not detain you longer, by explaining what you all feel, the close connexion of these topics with the questions now before you. In such an assembly of British merchants as I now address, deliberating in the centre of this great metropolis of the commerce of the world, can I be deceived in the belief that an eager and earnest desire will be expressed in your language, and manifested by your conduct, to follow up to the utmost this beneficial and happy system of public policy, carrying into full execution, in so far at least as depends on you, the gracious recommendation from the throne, the wise determination of Parliament, for the removal of every restraint by which the native freedom of trade is still unnecessarily, and therefore unjustly fettered?"

gate of 620 pieces of broad cloth per week ; the town was at that period in a happy and prosperous state as regarded the labouring population ; every family had employment, and their wages were good ; fifteen shillings per week was the usual price of a man's labour, whilst weavers and other artisans earned still higher wages. The contrast now is of such a nature as it is fearful to contemplate, and such as I almost hesitate to declare. The manufacturers have diminished to two in number, and the quantity reduced to one hundred pieces, or one-sixth of the quantity made twenty years ago. The change has not been the effect of any sudden convulsion,—it has been slow and gradual, one after another have dropped away.”

TABULAR VIEW OF THE MILL PROPERTY IN THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER.

District.	Mills at Work.		Not now used for Cloth.	Void Mills.	Rental.		Loss of Rent.
	1831.	1841.			1831.	1841.	
					£.	£.	£.
Chalford	100	63	7	30	22,919	9,480	13,439
Painswick							
Stroud							
Uley	5	1	1	3	2,970	70	2,900
Wotton	20	11	2	7	3,600	1,045	2,555
Dursley	8	2	0	6	1,600	310	1,290
	133	77	10	46	31,089	10,905	20,184

It is needless, it is heart-rending, to pursue this most sad description; sufficient has been said to confirm the statement, that wherever advantage is offered, to those places the manufacture will go. The lamentable change, so far as respects the West of England, is caused by other districts possessing greater advantages; but the decline in the woollen manufacture has extended to more favoured countries, and it becomes an important question, whether the difference in the price of food be not the main, almost the whole, cause of the decline, not of the woollen manufactures alone, but of the cotton manufacture, and almost every other branch of the national industry in Great Britain. The speech of Lord Grenville has been quoted to show the opinion which existed in 1825, as to the necessity of a liberal commercial system. Lord Grenville had then retired from his long political life;

but the following statesmen, now the leading members of the government, were among the cabinet ministers of that day:—Sir Robert Peel, Secretary for the Home Department; the Earl of Ripon, (then Mr. Robinson,) Chancellor of the Exchequer; and the Duke of Wellington, Master General of the Ordnance; and besides them, Mr. Goulburn was Chief Secretary for Ireland; and they were, as Lord Grenville stated, pledged from that time forth to carry out “the great principles of the undisturbed freedom of peaceful occupation, the uncontrolled discretion in the application of each man’s industry and capital, and the open and unfettered intercourse of all the tribes and families of mankind, alike conducive to private happiness, productive of national prosperity, and consonant to all the rightful exercise of public legislation.”

The question arises, has that pledge been kept in view in the seventeen years which have since elapsed? and have not our manufactures and commerce suffered from not redeeming that pledge? The history of the woollen manufacture is almost that of every other manufacture. With the pledge then made, with the system then determined upon, must not encouragement have been given to increase the means of meeting such a liberal policy, by erecting new mills, and carrying on more extended commerce? It is not meant to say, that nothing has been done; but certainly the hope held out by that pledge has not been fulfilled. The true meaning of giving “uncontrolled discretion in the application of each man’s industry and capital,” could only be, that he might employ his capital wherever and upon whatever produce or manufacture he might think it his interest so to do. If the pledge had been kept, corn and food of every description, the produce of any soil in any quarter of the globe, whether colonies belonging to Great Britain or not, would have been open to the British merchant and the British manufacturer; and if the pledge had been kept, would it have been possible for the manufacturers to be in the state they now are? Labour, which is in fact almost all food, constitutes about half the cost of all manufactures; and by reference to the comparative prices of wheat at Berlin, the great focus of Prussian manufacture, and in England, in

Appendix No. 8, and also to the diagramic table No. 11, it will be seen what a vast weight has been carried by the English manufacturer, from which the Prussia manufacturer has been exempt. The pressure of the Corn Law on our woollen manufacture was estimated by the lamented Mr. Huskisson, when President of the Board of Trade in 1825, (and then the colleague of Sir Robert Peel, the Duke of Wellington, and the Earl of Ripon,) at 15 per cent.: that duty was fixed in order to prevent foreign woollens competing with English woollens in England; but it could not, of course, be extended to the foreign or other open markets; there the British manufacturer has had to meet his foreign rival under that immense disadvantage. Well might the Earl of Liverpool's expression as to the effect of legislation, be applied also in this case,—“May not the woollen manufacture, as well as other manufactures, have prospered, or perhaps existed, in despite, and not in consequence, of legislation?”

It is an undeniable fact, that in proportion to the decline of our manufactures, those of Prussia, having the advantage of cheap subsistence, have increased.* It was the policy of the late king, and continues to be the policy and aim of the present king of Prussia, to give the fullest scope to the native industry of his country, by the removal of restrictions and impediments, by sending to other countries able and scientific men, not secretly or clandestinely, but openly and avowedly, to take back with them improvements in machinery, and all the other advantages they can obtain. With this encouragement, with cheap subsistence, and with great attention in other respects, their wise endeavours have succeeded. The present king and his father may be indeed regarded as the fathers of their native land. With the increase of their manufacture and commerce, the value of lands and the influence of the landed interest have been raised: the Prussian count and German baron are no longer proverbial for their poverty: they have known and appreciated the true source of their own prosperity, and given the greatest encouragement to national industry.

* Vide Table of Growth of Wool and Export of Woollen Manufactures in Prussia. Vol. ii., page 361 and following.

Let the landed interest of Great Britain follow this example. Let them look into the records of history, and see if they can meet with a single instance of landed prosperity being acquired and retained at the expense of the other classes of the empire. The proprietor of land is as much dependant for his wealth, his station, his influence, and it might be almost said for his daily bread, on the prosperity of manufactures, as the spinner and the weaver. Their interests are identical: destroy one, and you destroy the other: injure one, and you injure the other. Their object should be to raise the English artisan, to place him as much as possible upon the same footing as the foreign artisan, and allow him uncontrolled discretion in the application of his industry and capital. Corn would then, as surely as water, find its level; the price would be raised when it was too low,—it would be lowered when too high; and the introduction of British capital uncontrolled would tend much more to raise the price abroad than to lower it here.

It is not intended that this should be done immediately: all sudden changes must be injurious, might be ruinous: people in an artificial state should be prepared for a natural state. Lord Grenville justly said—that “measures should be well considered, and gradually adopted:” that is the true and wise course. But by the word gradual, it is not meant that they should be postponed from day to day, and never adopted. Some important changes in the tariff are now going forward. It is not yet too late, by a little more vigour, to preserve our manufactures and commerce, and even to extend them far more than has ever yet been known. Our national industry, surpassing that of any other country, may be said to be yet in its infancy, and it will be the consequence of our own acts, the acts of our own Government, if it is not extended and rewarded. It appears, unhappily, to be the fashion of the day for the land owners to feel jealous of the manufacturer, to misrepresent him where his interests and character ought to be protected: men, attaining situations which they imagine give them consequence and influence, have indulged their ignorant and mistaken opinions; that evil has, perhaps, already known the full extent of the effect of its malevolence. The judgment of the foreign purchaser of

British manufactures is not to be biased by indiscriminate abuse; he looks to the fabrics themselves, and understands their intrinsic value; he sees manufactures at a low price, saleable to those who can only afford to clothe themselves in coarse apparel, made of coarse and low material, even from the refuse of what has been before used for clothing of the wealthier classes; but it has its value in proportion to its quality; and because a coarse article is manufactured, is it reasonable, is it honest, to stigmatize the whole, or a large part of the manufacturing interest as fraudulent? They are the greatest enemies to their country who endeavour to make division and dissatisfaction between one class and another, and between the employer and the employed.

The manufacturers have nothing to fear if their own Government does them justice: they can meet their foreign rivals in any part of the world in quality, and they must be enabled to meet them also in price. They must lose, it is feared, the near markets; and, looking back to the table of woollen manufactures exported in the years 1772 to 1776,* and also to that of 1790 to 1799,† it will be seen that previous to the American war, and to the wars of the French revolution, our exports, in the first period, to the continent of Europe, amounted to about three-quarters of the whole amount shipped; and in the latter period, until interrupted by the victories of Napoleon, our trade with the continent was very large, and its loss is greatly to be deplored.

The first serious check given to the woollen trade,—a blow from which it never has recovered, and possibly never may recover,—was the cruel and impolitic tax on the importation of foreign wool. By this heavy pressure on the woollen manufacture of England, the trade was voluntarily abandoned by the Government of England, and transferred to the foreign manufacturer; and its natural consequences were, the loss of a great portion of that trade, and the depreciation of English wool.

No one can read attentively the evidence given before the Committee of the House of Lords, in 1828,‡ and not be convinced that English wool has changed its nature, and

* See vol. i. page 176. † See vol. i. page 328.

‡ Vide vol. ii, p. 137 to 152.

become less adapted to the woollen than it is to the worsted trade, nothing can more clearly establish that fact than the decreased exportation of cloth, and the increased exportation of stuffs.

	1816.		1826.		1840.
Cloth exported—Pieces...	636,368	...	384,508	...	215,746
Stuffs exported—Pieces...	593,308	...	1,138,588	...	1,718,617

It must be evident that there is something acting upon the one which does not act upon the other, or both would have declined or prospered alike; and the injury to the woollen branch is caused by the decreased production of British clothing wool, and the exclusion of low foreign wool by the present duty, which, though small in appearance, is heavy in reality, falling upon an article sometimes so low as 3d. per lb., and upon which, the expense of freight charged upon weight or bulk, (without reference to quality) is so heavy. It is likewise evident from the same examination, that the price of British wool actually fell during the continuance of the high duty on the importation of foreign wool, by the exclusion of an article essential to the consumption of British wool, that tax being injurious both to the wool grower and the manufacturer. The door cannot be too widely opened for a raw material which increases the sale of the national produce: with an unrestricted supply of low foreign wool, the woollen branch would revive.

Having thus, in a measure, lost the continental, we must now look to the more distant markets, in which there is a wide field open; but these can only be maintained by that freedom of commerce so well described by Lord Grenville, and an equalisation in the price of food; for wherever the price of subsistence offers an advantage, to that country manufactures will go.

But the woollen manufacture is not injured by the tax on food alone; there still remains a tax on the importation of foreign wool, which is a check to the importation of the coarser wools so essential to our lower fabrics. Therefore, why not make the duty nominal, and place the importation on the same footing as the exportation of British wool, by a duty of one shilling per cwt. ? It was the condition made by the present Earl of Ripon, now President of the Board of Trade, when

Chancellor of the Exchequer, that the duty on import and on export of wool should be alike ; why reduce the duty on export, and continue that on import ? The one is a bonus alike to the landed interest here and the foreign manufacturer ; the other is equally beneficial to the foreign manufacturer, but an injury to the British manufacturer, and it should be altered. Another tax, which pressed upon the woollen trade, namely, the export duty of a half per cent. on woollens exported, is now happily proposed to be repealed (March, 1842) ; and the duties on oils and dye wares are likewise about to be reduced. Let the manufacturer have fair play, and he has nothing to fear from his foreign competitors in distant and open markets. The Cape of Good Hope, the East Indies, and Australia will continue to give an annually increased supply of the raw material, whilst those countries, and North and South America, open a wide field for the consumption of our fabrics.

Let the advice of Lord Grenville be implicitly followed, and the pledges of the government of that day redeemed, and there need not be a doubt that we shall again see manufactures and commerce flourish, and happiness extended to all classes and all professions.

A P P E N D I X .

CONTENTS.

TABLES.

- No. 1. Luccock and Hubbard on English Wool.**
- „ **2. Bales and Weight of Wool Imported.**
- „ **3. Wool Imported from various Countries.**
- „ **4. Cloths Milled in Yorkshire.**
- „ **5. Houses and Population of the West-Riding of Yorkshire.**
- „ **6. Wool and Woollen Trade, with Price of Wheat and Mutton.**
- „ **7. Quantities of Wool and Woollens Exported.**
- „ **8. Prices of Wheat in England and Berlin.**
- „ **9. Prices of Mutton at Smithfield in each Month.**
- „ **10. Foreign Trade of Great Britain.**
- „ **11. Table of Wheat in England and Berlin.**

TABLE No. I.—SHEEP'S WOOL PRODUCED IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

COUNTY.	No. of Short Wool Sheep.	Weight of Pieces.	Number of Packs.	ACCORDING TO MR. LUCOCK'S TABLE—1860.		No. of Long Wool Sheep.	Number of Packs.	MR. HUBBARD'S TABLE—1868.	
				No. of Long Wool Sheep.	Number of Packs.			Weight of Short Wool. lbs.	Packs of Long Wool.
Northumberland	538,162	1lb.	12,333	...	...	...	...	6,167	6,166
Durham	159,385	5½	3,320	...	...	...	...	...	3,818
Cumberland	378,400	9	5,915	67,200	2,520	...	...	...	2,380
Westmoreland	223,725	3½	3,262	...	...	...	...	7,883	...
Yorkshire, West Riding	383,122	3½	6,678	...	...	...	...	4,660	...
— East Riding	306,240	5	6,380	...	...	...	...	4,390	...
— North Riding	365,326	various	5,939	...	...	...	...	...	4,389
— Holderness .....	...	8	...	84,000	2,800	...	...	5,708	7,656
— Other parts .....	...	8	...	14,310	477	...	...	...	1,902
Lancashire	310,000	3½	4,922	...	...	...	...	...	2,800
Cheshire	65,000	various	926	...	...	...	...	5,812	477
Derbyshire	362,400	3	4,530	...	...	...	...	1,218	...
Nottinghamshire	255,147	various	4,112	...	...	...	...	...	9,060
Lincolnshire	125,645	5½	2,833	...	...	...	...	...	6,910
— Rich Land and Marshes .....	...	9 & 8	...	1,329,125	49,477	...	...	...	3,091
— Miscellaneous .....	...	8	...	565,657	16,855	...	...	...	49,842
Rutlandshire .....	...	5	...	114,000	2,370	...	...	...	12,641
Northamptonshire .....	...	5	...	640,000	16,000	...	...	...	2,850
Warwickshire	182,962	3	2,287	...	...	...	...	...	16,000
Ditto .....	...	5	...	160,000	3,333	...	...	...	8,574
Leicestershire	20,000	3½	291	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto .....	...	7	...	380,528	11,100	...	...	...	10,013
Oxfordshire	304,584	various	5,303	...	...	...	...	...	6,345
Buckinghamshire	222,968	3	2,767	...	...	...	...	...	4,645
Gloucestershire	355,000	various	5,400	...	...	...	...	...	8,875
Ditto .....	...	8	...	200,000	6,666	...	...	...	6,668
Somersetshire	500,700	4½	9,386	...	...	...	...	5,215	5,216
Worcestershire	330,504	3½	4,820	...	...	...	...	...	6,541
Monmouthshire	177,619	various	1,431	...	...	...	...	...	2,960
Herefordshire	500,000	2	4,200	...	...	...	...	2,778	5,555
Shropshire	422,034	2½	4,397	...	...	...	...	2,344	4,690
Staffordshire	183,120	2	1,926	3,720	113	...	...	...	3,503
Ditto .....	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

TABLE No. I. CONTINUED.

ACCORDING TO MR. LUCCOCK'S TABLE—1800.					MR. HUBBARD'S TABLE—1828.			
COUNTY.	No. of Short Wool Sheep.	Weight of Fleece.	Number of Packs.	No. of Long Wool Sheep.	Weight of Fleece.	Packs of Short Wool.	Packs of Long Wool.	
Bedfordshire	204,000	lbs. 5	4,250	...	...	...	4,250
Berkshire	306,600	3½	4,151	...	...	2½	4,471
Huntingdonshire	108,000	4½	2,000	...	...	5½	4,490
Ditto	...	7	...	87,500	2,552	...	...
Cambridgeshire	67,744	4	1,128	...	...	4½	1,270
Ditto	...	8	...	41,688	1,390	8	1,390	
Suffolk	497,000	2½	5,176	...	...	4½	8,801
Norfolk	683,704	2	5,697	...	...	4½	4,273
Ditto	...	7	...	39,500	1,123	7½	4,650	
Essex	519,000	3	6,486	...	...	4	2,885
Hertfordshire	277,000	4½	5,297	...	...	5	937
Middlesex	45,000	4	750	...	...	5	...
Kent	524,475	3½	7,000	...	...	4½	10,380
— Romney Marsh	...	7	...	185,000	5,400	6½	5,010	
— The Marsh	...	7	...	108,330	3,160	6½	2,934	
Surrey	263,000	3	3,540	...	...	3½	...
Sussex Low Lands	547,000	3	6,837	...	...	3	4,127
Downs	316,800	2	2,640	...	...	3	6,837
Hampshire	518,600	3	6,457	...	...	3	3,960
Isle of Wight	81,000	3½	800	...	...	3	6,457
Wiltshire Downs	383,500	2½	6,684	...	...	4	1,016
— Pasture	117,500	3	1,460	...	...	2½	6,685
Dorsetshire	632,240	3½	9,880	...	...	4	1,958
Devonshire	436,550	4	7,280	...	...	3½	9,878
Ditto	...	8	...	193,750	6,458	5	2,275	
Cornwall	203,000	4	3,382	...	...	8	...
Wales	...	...	9,262	...	...	7	...
Total Short Wool Packs	202,737			131,794		...	129,917	
Long Wool	131,794					...	263,847	
Skin Wool	68,705					...	69,405	
Grand Total Packs—1820	393,236			Grand Total Packs—1828.			463,169	

TABLE No. II.—IMPORTATION OF BALES OF FOREIGN WOOL
INTO ALL THE PORTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, IN THE FOLLOWING YEARS:—

(Extracted from the Returns published annually by Messrs. Gooch and Cousens, of London Wall.)

	1833.	1834.	1835.	1836.	1837.	1838.	1839.	1840.	1841.
Germany.....	72,776	62,553	69,632	90,450	53,359	79,320	68,682	63,270	62,483
Spain	20,714	13,999	8,582	23,453	13,162	8,577	11,730	6,842	8,003
Australia	14,948	16,279	19,762	22,793	33,318	32,200	39,106	41,025	53,015
Cape of Good Hope	511	661	824	1,599	1,780	1,996	3,189	3,477	} 90,681
Other Countries.....	11,731	43,377	36,658	68,628	64,955	58,230	82,860	71,457	
	120,680	136,869	135,458	206,913	163,574	180,323	205,567	186,079	214,182

TABLE No. II.—CONTINUED.

WEIGHT OF WOOL IMPORTED INTO GREAT BRITAIN.

Years.	lbs.	Years.	lbs.	Years.	lbs.	Years.	lbs.
1771	1,829,772	1789	4,013,114	1807	11,768,926	1825	22,558,222
1772	1,536,685	1790	2,582,295	1808	2,353,725	1826	43,795,281
1773	1,477,284	1791	3,014,511	1809	6,845,933	1827	29,142,290
1774	2,133,496	1792	1,998,732	1810	10,936,224	1828	30,246,898
1775	2,031,973	1793	4,263,496	1811	4,739,972	1829	21,525,542
1776	2,062,628	1794	1,632,926	1812	7,014,967	1830	32,313,059
1777	2,853,065	1795	4,362,069	1813	Records burnt	1831	31,652,029
1778	489,869	1796	4,510,534	1814	15,712,517	1832	28,128,973
1779	519,664	1797	3,289,311	1815	14,991,713	1833	38,046,087
1780	323,618	1798	4,577,106	1816	13,636,241	1834	46,455,232
1781	2,478,332	1799	2,263,660	1817	7,516,316	1835	42,174,532
1782	991,510	1800	8,609,368	1818	14,051,788	1836	64,239,977
1783	2,629,692	1801	7,371,774	1819	24,722,161	1837	48,379,708
1784	1,602,674	1802	7,669,368	1820	13,736,158*	1838	52,606,496
1785	3,135,252	1803	5,904,740	1821	9,770,103	1839	57,364,772
1786	1,554,637	1804	7,921,595	1822	16,625,306	1840	52,959,221
1787	4,188,252	1805	8,069,793	1823	19,048,879	1841	49,710,396
1788	4,079,333	1806	7,333,993	1824	19,378,249†		

* Tax imposed 6d. per lb.

† Tax of 6d. per lb. reduced.

TABLE No. III. CONTINUED.

Countries from which Imported.	Year 1800, ending Jan. 5, 1801.	Year 1805, ending Jan. 5, 1806.	Year 1810, ending Jan. 5, 1811.	Year 1815, ending Jan. 5, 1816.	Year 1820, ending Jan. 5, 1821.	Year 1825, ending Jan. 5, 1826.	Year 1830, ending Jan. 5, 1831.	Year 1835, ending Jan. 5, 1836.	Year 1840, ending Jan. 5, 1841.
East Indies	—	—	701	—	8,056	—	—	295,848	2,441,370
New South Wales ...	—	—	167	73,171	99,415	323,995	{ 973,330	{ 4,210,301	{ 6,215,329
Van Diemen's Land..	—	—	—	—	—	—	{ 993,979	—	{ 2,626,178
Port Philip	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	785,398
Swan River	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42,748
South Australia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	51,590
British America	—	—	1,217	—	139	70	—	14	15,793
British West Indies...	—	5,079	2,894	53	760	—	1,725	2,029	3,286
United States of America	173	225	—	8,533	578	80,468	7,313	237,306	115,095
Guatemala.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,009
Colombia.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	842
Brazil.....	—	—	43,014	4,311	4,277	37	1,148	18,760	9,182
Rio de la Plata	—	—	73,159	41,527	68,759	331,265	19,441	962,900	616,721
Chili	—	21,649	—	—	14,792	2	—	—	586,796
Peru	—	—	—	—	—	14,313	5,741	—	—
Mexico	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,213,740	—
Guernsey, and	1,583	8,344	41,407	6,264	19,015	22,266	7,745	246	11,830
Man.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prize.....	197,313	361,499	23,837	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Pounds Weight	8,609,368	8,069,793	10,914,137	13,640,375	9,789,020	43,795,281	32,313,059	42,174,532	46,224,781

TABLE No. IV. CONTINUED.

YEARS.	BROADS.		NARROWS.		YEARS.	BROADS.		NARROWS.	
	Pieces.	Yards.	Pieces.	Yards.		Pieces.	Yards.	Pieces.	Yards.
1774	87,201	2,587,364½	88,323	2,133,583	1798	224,159	7,134,114	148,566	5,180,313
1775	95,878	2,841,213	96,794	2,441,007	1799	272,755	8,806,688	180,168	6,377,277
1776	99,733	2,975,389	99,586	2,488,140½	1800	285,851	9,263,966	169,262	6,014,420
1777	107,750	3,153,891	95,786	2,601,583	1801	264,082	8,699,242	137,231	4,833,534
1778	132,506	3,795,990	101,629	2,746,712	1802	265,660	8,686,046	137,061	5,023,754
1779	110,942	3,427,150	93,143	2,659,659	1803	266,785	8,942,798	139,575	5,023,996
1780	94,625	2,802,671	87,309	2,571,324	1804	298,178	9,987,255	150,010	5,440,179
1781	102,018	3,099,127	98,721	2,671,397	1805	300,237	10,079,256	165,847	6,193,317
1782	112,470	4,458,405	96,743	2,598,751	1806	290,269	9,561,178	175,334	6,430,101
1783	131,032	4,553,376	108,641	3,292,002	1807	262,024	8,422,143	161,816	5,931,253
1784	138,023	4,094,335	115,500	3,356,648	1808	279,859	9,050,970	144,624	5,309,007
1785	157,275	4,844,855	116,036	3,400,278	1809	311,239	9,826,048	151,911	5,951,762
1786	158,792	4,934,975	123,025	3,536,889	1810	273,664	8,671,042	158,252	6,180,811
1787	155,748	4,850,832	128,740	4,038,157	1811	269,892	8,535,559	141,809	5,715,534
1788	139,406	4,244,322	132,143	4,208,303	1812	316,413	9,949,419	136,863	5,117,209
1789	154,134	4,716,460	145,495	4,409,573	1813	369,890	11,702,837	142,863	5,615,755
1790	172,588	5,151,677	140,407	4,582,122	1814	338,869	10,656,191	147,474	6,045,472
1791	187,569	5,815,079	154,373	4,797,594	1815	330,310	10,394,466	162,355	6,649,859
1792	214,851	6,760,728	190,468	5,531,698	1816	325,449	10,135,285	120,901	5,650,669
1793	190,332	6,054,946	150,606	4,783,722	1817	351,122	10,974,473	132,607	5,233,616
1794	190,988	6,067,208	130,403	4,634,258	1818	324,539	10,246,205	140,314	5,721,392
1795	250,993	7,759,907	155,087	5,172,511	1819	363,278	8,406,314	119,700	4,889,181
1796	246,770	7,830,536	151,594	5,245,704	1820	286,720	9,186,223	129,279	5,225,791
1797	229,292	7,236,038	156,709	5,503,648					

TABLE No 5.

HOUSES AND POPULATION IN THE WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE IN 1841.

Superintendent Registrars' Districts.	Houses.			Persons.		
	Inhabited.	Uninhabited.	Building	Males.	Females.	Total.
Bradford	25,554	2,551	435	65,339	66,825	132,164
Clitheroe (part of) ^a	1,515	148	3	4,140	3,807	7,947
Dewsbury	11,970	888	87	30,149	30,564	60,713
Doncaster (part of) ^b ...	6,401	464	30	14,969	15,989	30,958
Ecclesall Bierlow (part of) ^c	5,712	680	76	14,165	14,515	28,680
Ecclesfield	7,748	242	88	21,345	20,116	41,461
Goole (part of) ^d	2,242	146	49	5,682	5,873	11,555
Halifax	20,861	1,895	296	53,915	55,260	109,175
Huddersfield	19,922	1,335	147	54,242	52,898	107,140
Keighley	6,847	573	49	17,914	18,261	36,175
Knaresborough	5,650	586	27	13,378	13,876	27,254
Leeds	34,012	2,419	405	82,081	86,586	168,667
Otley	5,080	289	23	13,844	13,250	27,094
Pateley Bridge	1,597	165	2	4,093	3,906	7,999
Pontefract	7,046	410	49	17,100	17,254	34,354
Ripon (part of) ^e	3,017	224	7	7,071	7,422	14,493
Rotherham (part of) ^f ..	5,516	197	23	13,974	13,688	27,662
Saddleworth	3,087	555	19	8,351	8,478	16,829
Sedbergh	922	81	4	2,446	2,390	4,836
Selby (part of) ^g	2,513	142	17	6,021	6,126	12,147
Settle	2,780	200	3	7,081	7,015	14,096
Sheffield	17,620	2,575	128	42,068	43,008	85,076
Skipton	5,521	483	12	14,591	14,145	28,736
Tadcaster (part of) ^h ...	2,940	142	21	7,229	7,424	14,653
Thirsk (part of) ⁱ	139	8		351	324	675
Thorne (part of) ^k	1,689	184	7	3,760	3,943	7,703
Todmorden (part of) ^l ...	4,530	376	48	12,105	12,240	24,345
Wakefield	8,978	622	116	22,947	22,701	45,648
Worksop (part of) ^m	664	10	8	1,793	1,682	3,475
Wortley	4,400	280	42	12,383	10,831	23,214
Total in 1841	226,473	18,870	2,221	574,527	580,397	1,154,924
Houses and Population in 1831	190,484	12,147	1,676	485,812	490,538	976,350

^a Comprising the parishes of Mitton, Bolton-by-Bowland and Slaidburn, and part of the parish of Gisburn, (consisting of the townships of Gisburn, Horton, Newsholme, Middop, Remmington, Paythorne, and Gisburn Forest,) and the extra parochial place of Sawley.

^b Comprising the parishes of Adwick-upon-Deerne, Barnbrough or Barnbrough, Brodsworth, Bolton-upon-Deerne, Clayton-with-Frickley, Hooton-Pagnell, Hickleton, High-Melton, Marr, Mexborough, Sprotbrough, Thurnscoe, Armthorpe, Barnby-on-Don, Cantley, Kirk-Sandall-with-Trumffleet, Doncaster,

Rossington, Campsall, Burch-Wallis, Owston, Kirk-Bramwith, Bentley-with-Arksey, Cossbrough, Edlington, Loversall, Stainton-with-Heilaby, Tickhill, Wadworth, and Warmsworth, and parts of the parishes of Blyth, (consisting of the chapelries of Austerfield and Bawtry,) Finningley, (consisting of the township of Blaxton, and part of the township of Aukley,) Adwick-le-Street, (comprising the townships of Adwick-le-Street and Hamphall,) and Braithwell township, in the parish of Braithwell.

^c Comprising part of the parish of Sheffield, (including the townships of Ecclesall-Bierlow, and Upper and Nether Hallam.)

^d Comprising the parishes of Whitgift and Adlingfleet, and part of the parish of Snaith, (comprising the townships of Goole, Hooke, Snaith, Pollington, Gowdull, and Cowick, and the chapelries of Armin-cum-Booth-Ferry, and Rawcliffe.)

^e Comprising the parishes of South Stanley-with-Clayton, Burton Leonard, and Ripon, (with the exception of the townships Bewerley, Dacre, and High and Low Bishopside,) comprising also the townships of Kirkby Malzeard, Grewelthorpe or Gravelthorpe, Azerley and Laverton (in the parish of Kirkby Malzeard,) and the extra-parochial places of Markingfield-Hall and Lindrick.

^f Comprising the parishes of Rotherham, Treeton, Aston-cum-Aughton, Rawmarsh, Maltby, Thribergh, Hooton-Roberts, Ravensfield, Whiston, and Wickersley, and parts of the parishes of Laughton-en-le-Morthen, (comprising the township of Laughton-en-le-Morthen,) Braithwell, (comprising the township of Bramley,) and Wath-upon-Dearn, (consisting of the townships of Wath-upon-Dearn, and Brampton Bierlow, and the chapelries of Swinton and Wentworth.)

^g Comprising the parishes of Selby, Cawood, Wistow, Brayton, and Drax, and parts of the parishes of Ryther-with-Osendsike, Birkin, (consisting of the townships of West Haddlesey, Hurst-Courtney, and Hurst-Temple, and the chapelry of Chapel-Haddlesey,) and the chapelry of Carleton, in the parish of Snaith.

^h Comprising the parishes of Aberford, Kirk-Fenton, Saxton, Collingham, Bardsey, Bramham, Kirkby-Wharf, and parts of the parishes of Sherburn, (including the townships of Lotherton, with part of Aberford, Sherburn, and Barkston,) Barwick-in-Elmet, (including the township of Barwick-in-Elmet,) Harewood, (including the township of East Keewick,) Thorne, (including the townships of Scarcroft and Thorne,) Tadcaster, (consisting of the townships of Tadcaster and Sutton-with-Hazlewood,) and Ryther, (consisting of the township of Lead-Hall,) and the extra-parochial place of Micklewaite-Grange.

ⁱ Comprising parts of the parishes of Kilburn, (including the townships of Hoodgrange and Kilburn,) and Feliskirk, (including the township of Feliskirk.)

^j Comprising the parishes of Thorne, Hatfield, and Fiaflake.

^k Comprising part of the parish of Halifax.

^l Comprising the parishes of North and South Anston, Thorpe-Salvin, Dinnington, Harthill-with-Woodhall, Wales, Todwick, and Firbeck, and part of the parish of Laughton-en-le-Morthen, (comprising the townships of Woodsetts and Gilden Wells, and the chapelry of Letwell, including St. John's.)

. Bradford, Clitheroe, Dewsbury, Halifax, Huddersfield, Keighley, Leeds, Saddleworth, Settle, Todmorden, and Wakefield, are the district of the *woollen manufacture* and coal.

Rotherham, Sheffield, Wortley, Bradford, and Ecclesfield, are the district of iron, hardware, and coal.

Others chiefly agricultural districts.

TABLE No. VI.—THE WOOL AND WOOLLEN TRADE, WITH PRICE OF WHEAT, 1741 to 1840.

Years.	Price of English Wool. per lb.	Price of Wheat.	Wool Imported.	Declared Value of Woollens Exported.	Price of South Down Wool.	Price of Kent Long Wool.	Price of Highland Wool.	Price of Wheat.	Price of Mutton.	Weight of Wool imported.	Weight of British Wool exported.	Weight of Woollen and Worsted yarn exported.	Official Value of Woollens exported.
	d.	s. d.	lbs.	£.	d.	d.	s. d.	s. d.	d.	lb.	lb.	lb.	£.
1741	7	37 6		3,669,734	1791	11 1/2	9	47 0		3,014,511			5,505,094
1742	8	27 6		3,858,787	1792	16	11 1/2	42 11		1,998,782			5,510,668
1743	10	21 6		3,541,338	1793	11 1/2	9 1/2	48 11		4,263,496			3,806,536
1744	11	20 0		2,762,869	1794	13	9 1/2	51 8		1,632,926			4,390,920
1745	8 1/2	19 0		2,947,357	1795	15	10	74 2		4,362,059			5,172,864
1746	6 1/2	20 0		3,646,643	1796	16	9 1/2	87 0		4,510,334			6,011,133
1747	6 1/2	28 6		3,554,038	1797	15	9 1/2	50 0		3,289,311			4,336,355
1748	9 1/2	27 0		3,514,396	1798	15	9 1/2	51 0		4,577,106			6,499,339
1749	10	29 6		4,477,851	1799	21	12 1/2	49 0		2,263,666			6,876,939
1750	9 1/2	28 6		4,320,006	1800	17	12 1/2	185 0		8,609,368			
1751	9 1/2			4,206,762	1801	19	12 1/2	145 0		7,371,774			6,917,563
1752	10 1/2			3,718,123	1802	19	14	16 0		7,669,798			7,321,012
1753	8			4,223,233	1803	20	13 1/2	67 0		5,904,740 ^b			6,067,261
1754	7 1/2			3,624,676	1804	22	16	57 0		7,921,505 ^c			5,302,679
1755	7	25 0		3,575,297	1805	27	16	16 0		8,069,793 ^d			5,604,439
1756	8	24 0		4,333,505	1806	22	14 1/2	81 0		7,333,983 ^e			6,005,540
1757	9 1/2	47 6		4,758,095	1807	24	14	76 0		11,768,926			6,247,727
1758	10 1/2	50 0		4,673,462	1808	21	12 1/2	81 0		2,353,725			5,372,062
1759	10 1/2	26 6		5,352,299	1809	36	15	90 0		6,845,933 ^f			4,853,069
1760	9 1/2	26 6		5,453,172	1810	28	16	20 0		10,936,224			5,416,149
1761	9	27 0		4,344,076	1811	17	13	95 0		4,739,972			5,773,719
1762	8 1/2	24 6		3,905,064	1812	20	13 1/2	18 0		7,014,917 ^g			4,376,497
1763	10 1/2	32 0		3,971,439	1813	23	15	119 0		15,712,517 ^h			7,443,462
1764	10 1/2	32 6		5,170,969	1814	26	21	67 0		14,991,713			10,200,927
1765	11	33 0		4,475,482	1815	23	22	31 0					

• Double stone of 48 lbs. • Wool admitted free. ^a Duty 1s. 3d. and 1s. 10d. per cwt. ^b Duty 1s. 11d. per cwt. ^c Duty 1s. 4d. 2-10ths per cwt. ^d Duty 1s. 6d. per cwt. ^e Duty 1s. 11d. per cwt. ^f Duty 1s. 11d. per cwt. ^g Duty 1s. 11d. per cwt. ^h Duty 1s. 11d. per cwt.

TABLE No. VI. CONTINUED.

Year.	Price of English Wool Per lb.		Price of Wheat.	Wool Imported.	Declared Value of Woolens Exported.	Price of South Down Wool.		Price of Kent Long Wool.		Price of Highland Wool.	Price of Wheat.	Price of Mutton.		Weight of Wool Imported.	Weight of British Wool exported.	Weight of Worsted yarn exported.	Official value of Woolens exported.
	d.	s.	d.	lb.	£	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	d.	Mar.	Sept.	lb.	lb.	lb.	£
1765	10½	83	0		4,029,102	1816	18	14	16	0	71	0	6	13,636,241			5,586,364
1767	10½	45	6		4,277,462	1817	24	15	19	0	109	0	6½	7,516,316			5,674,684
1768	8½	48	6		4,358,883	1818	30	24	20	0	84	0	5	14,051,788			6,313,659
1769	8	82	0		3,896,547	1819	19	15	20	0	78	0	7½	24,722,161*			4,595,454
1770	7	31	6		4,113,383	1820	17	16	20	0	81	0	7½	13,736,156			4,363,980
1771	8	47	2	1,820,772	4,940,240	1821	15	13	18	0	54	0	6	9,770,103			5,600,921
1772	13	50	8	1,536,685	4,403,783	1822	15	11	12	0	43	0	4½	16,625,306			
1773	8	51	0	1,477,284	3,875,929	1823	15½	12	11	0	35	0	5½	19,048,879*			5,943,389
1774	9	52	6	2,133,496	4,331,583	1824	14	13	13	0	58	0	5½	19,378,249	18,367	3,524	5,533,491
1775	8½	48	4	2,031,973	4,220,173	1825	16	16	20	0	66	0	7	22,558,222	112,424	76,901	6,147,454
1776	8½	38	2	2,062,426	3,698,033	1826	10	11	12	0	60	0	6	43,795,281	143,130	131,032	5,929,342
1777	8	45	6	2,053,065	3,747,537	1827	9	10½	13	0	53	0	5½	29,142,290	255,708	255,708	5,041,568
1778	6½	42	0	480,869	3,213,331	1828	9	12					6½	30,246,598	436,722	589,550	5,979,701
1779	6	33	8	519,664	2,820,616	1829	7	9					5½	21,525,542	1,332,097	1,108,023	5,529,378
1780	7½	35	8	323,618	2,559,109	1830	12	10½	12	0	65	0	7	31,652,029	3,494,275	1,592,445	6,197,292
1781	7½	44	8	2,478,332		1831	13	10½	15	0	67	0	6	28,128,973	4,199,825	2,204,464	6,678,263
1782	8	47	10	991,310		1832	13	12½	14	0	58	0	6	38,046,087	4,992,110	2,107,478	7,902,034
1783	8	52	6	2,620,692		1833	18	10½	22	0	53	0	6½	46,455,232	2,278,721	1,561,514	6,614,637
1784	8½	58	10	1,602,674		1834	16½	19½	27	6	46	0	5½	42,174,532	4,642,604	2,357,336	7,333,660
1785	9	51	10	3,135,252	Average, 3,544,160	1835	18	18	20	0	39	0	4½	64,239,977	3,942,407	2,546,177	7,678,086
1786	0	36	10	1,534,637		1836	17	20½	23	0	60	0	6	48,379,708	2,647,874	2,613,718	4,817,001
1787	11	41	2	4,188,252		1837	14	15	17	0	56	0	6½	52,606,196	5,851,340	3,080,892	6,596,333
1788	12	45	0	4,079,333		1838	17	17	22	0	65	0	6	57,364,772	4,603,799	3,320,441	6,572,055
1789	12	51	2	4,013,114		1839	14½	17½	21	0	73	0	6	52,959,221	4,610,387	3,796,644	5,652,917
1790	12½	53	2	2,582,295	5,190,637	1840	13	14½	18	0	68	0	6				

* 6d. per lb.

b 1d. per lb.

TABLE No. VII.—QUANTITY OF BRITISH WOOL AND WOOLLEN AND WORSTED MANUFACTURES EXPORTED.
SPECIES OF BRITISH WOOL AND WOOLLENS EXPORTED.

Years ending Jan. 5.	Sheep and Lamb Wool	Woolen and Worsted Yarn.	Cloths of all Sorts.	Knapped Coating Duffels.	Kersey-mercs.	Beize of all Sorts.	Stuffs, Woollen and Worsted.	Flannels and Blanketing.	Carpet and Carpeting.	Woollen mixed with Cotton.	Hosiery, per Doz. Pair.	Sundries, entered at Value.	Declared Value.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Yards.	Yards.	Yards.		£.	£.
1816	43,631	6,490	638,368	88,588	92,696	69,686	593,208	7,056,271	3,397,187	793,793	202,900	265,200	9,367,465
1817	37,207	8,757	467,221	90,481	91,182	50,038	585,841	3,592,331	1,934,469	820,038	119,464	182,461	7,847,280
1818	36,912	5,451	478,378	93,329	83,493	61,174	683,448	2,814,101	2,305,565	642,586	100,364	147,373	7,177,335
1819	35,543	6,598	446,872	78,525	104,468	58,578	937,944	4,621,860	2,706,904	1,144,330	161,217	170,496	8,145,327
1820	30,653	14,142	340,044	60,374	71,643	39,796	717,581	3,622,761	1,777,719	620,630	101,473	82,909	5,989,622
1821	35,242	11,081	288,228	59,644	78,944	37,163	828,824	2,567,496	1,288,109	525,990	59,390	39,313	5,587,758
1822	34,226	17,678	376,153	69,622	91,402	41,610	1,021,103	3,504,787	1,424,214	764,922	106,844	38,986	6,465,988
1823	33,208	31,078	419,748	67,757	95,870	43,447	1,078,424	4,502,410	1,926,459	883,729	132,778	46,865	6,490,454
1824	28,563	18,138	355,687	54,226	94,344	41,539	1,150,123	4,310,024	2,129,618	776,268	103,396	44,516	5,635,776
1825	53,743	20,060	407,154	51,585	108,012	47,105	1,242,343	3,105,412	1,989,013	848,391	108,722	43,045	6,045,240
1826	112,424	76,961	384,598	45,268	126,439	47,090	1,138,588	2,954,547	2,162,638	888,324	100,887	45,221	6,201,479
1827	142,986	131,002	327,968	41,800	86,038	36,862	1,125,077	2,419,959	1,082,412	903,226	69,090	36,407	4,990,997
1828	276,552	255,659	370,850	51,690	122,048	47,560	1,258,538	2,518,012	1,598,879	1,195,894	143,443	43,121	6,292,418

TABLE No. VII. CONTINUED.

SPECIES OF BRITISH WOOL AND WOOLLENS EXPORTED.

Years ending Jan. 5.	Sheep and Lambs' Wool lbs.	Woolen and Worsted Yarn lbs.	Cloths on Sorts Pieces.	Knitted Goods, Collars, & Hosiery Pieces.	Kersey-meres, Pieces.	Base all Sorts Pieces.	Stuffs, Worsted, Pieces.	Flannels, Yards.	Blankets and Blanketing, Yards.	Carpets and Carpeting, Yards.	Woolen mixed with Cotton, Yards.	Hosiery, per Doz. Pair.	Stretches entered at Value, £.	Declared Value, £.
1829	1,659,389	436,722	335,042	40,646	84,524	49,567	1,310,853	2,539,766	2,097,542	1,197,947	981,152	159,463	48,314	5,069,741
1830	1,332,097	589,558	363,075	16,186	33,465	52,777	1,307,558	1,572,920	1,839,961	811,538	1,074,077	91,285	41,948	4,587,603
1831	2,951,000	1,108,023	388,269	22,377	34,714	49,164	1,252,512	1,613,099	2,176,391	672,869	1,099,518	111,146	54,038	4,728,666
1832	3,494,275	1,592,455	436,143	13,892	29,650	30,259	1,487,404	1,572,558	2,546,328	678,656	1,000,004	143,774	64,648	5,232,013
1833	1,199,825	2,204,464	396,061	23,453	40,984	34,874	1,800,714	2,304,750	1,681,840	690,042	1,334,072	152,810	55,443	5,244,478
1834	4,992,110	2,107,478	597,189	19,543	31,795	45,036	1,690,559	2,055,072	3,128,106	667,377	1,605,056	232,766	78,236	6,294,432
1835	2,278,721	1,861,814	521,214	22,868	23,891	43,338	1,298,775	1,821,394	2,537,772	606,912	1,723,069	173,063	75,841	5,736,871
1836	4,642,604	2,357,336	619,886	20,083	29,203	47,854	1,673,069	2,067,620	3,122,341	938,848	1,778,389	207,014	110,689	5,840,511
1837	3,942,407	2,546,177	720,587	22,814	29,610	45,555	1,406,000	2,190,008	4,333,876	1,008,013	1,467,927	163,182	142,553	7,639,364
1838	2,647,874	2,513,718	387,787	23,605	22,930	43,477	1,041,636	1,685,457	2,431,683	753,964	1,051,972	74,947	92,617	4,655,977
1839	3,861,340	3,086,892	587,903	26,847	36,428	41,813	1,358,984	1,779,525	2,558,806	727,539	1,846,231	109,758	123,335	5,795,069
1840	4,603,799	3,320,441	392,854	25,025	32,572	27,749	1,655,596	1,727,025	3,148,846	906,489	2,388,282	175,023	258,379	6,271,645
1841	4,810,387	3,796,644	215,746	16,094	27,122	36,044	1,718,617	1,613,477	2,162,653	758,639	3,628,874	96,946	164,034	5,327,853

TABLE VIII.—PRICE OF WHEAT IN ENGLAND AND AT BERLIN.

An Account of the Prices of Wheat per Quarter, as exhibited in the Register kept in the Audit Books of <i>Eton College</i> , from the year 1646 to 1740, reducing the Quarter of Nine Bushels, in which it was kept, to the Winchester Quarter of Eight Bushels. Taken from a Second Letter to Lord Grenville, by Thomas Tooke, Esq., F.R.S. Published 1829.										An Account of the mean Price of Wheat per Quarter, at Eton, as stated by Thomas Tooke, Esq., from the year 1741 to 1826, the average Price of Wheat in England, from 1827 to 1840, and the average Price of Wheat in the Market of Berlin, at St. Martin's day, from the year 1774 to 1824, as given by William Jacob, Esq., in his Report on Foreign Trade, from 1826, and the official Prices of Wheat, as recorded in Berlin, from 1825 to 1840.											
Years.	Price at Lady Day.		Price at Michaelmas of the Year.		Years.	Price at Lady Day.		Price at Michaelmas of the Year.		Years.	Pri. of Wheat in England.		Years.	Pri. of Wheat in Berlin.		Years.	Pri. of Wheat in England.		Years.	Pri. of Wheat in Berlin.	
1641					1691	29	0½	30	9½	1741	41	9½	1791	49	4	1791	49	4	1791	27	4
1642					1692	42	8	40	10½	1742	28	5½	1792	47	1½	1792	47	1½	1792	26	5
1643					1693	52	4	66	11½	1743	22	1¾	1793	49	6¾	1793	49	6¾	1793	27	1
1644					1694	71	1½	42	8	1744	22	0¾	1794	54	0	1794	54	0	1794	31	4
1645					1695	33	2½	61	0½	1745	24	3½	1795	81	6	1795	81	6	1795	39	0
1646					1696	64	0	48	0	1746	34	8	1796	80	3	1796	80	3	1796	28	9
1647					1697	40	9½	56	10½	1747	30	11½	1797	62	0	1797	62	0	1797	29	8
1648					1698	62	2¾	59	3	1748	32	10½	1798	54	0	1798	54	0	1798	31	8
1649					1699	62	2¾	49	9½	1749	32	10½	1799	75	8	1799	75	8	1799	39	5
1650					1700	37	4	33	9½	1750	28	10½	1800	127	0	1800	127	0	1800	39	1
1651					1701	33	9½	29	7½	1751	34	2½	1801	128	6	1801	128	6	1801	42	4
1652					1702	26	8	25	5¾	1752	40	8¾	1802	67	3	1802	67	3	1802	47	2
1653					1703	26	8	37	4	1753	39	8½	1803	60	0	1803	60	0	1803	56	10
1654					1704	51	6¾	30	9¾	1754	30	9¾	1804	69	6	1804	69	6	1804	56	6
1655					1705	28	5½	24	10¾	1755	29	11	1805	88	0	1805	88	0	1805	60	1
1656					1706	23	1½	23	1½	1756	40	2½	1806	83	0	1806	83	0	1806	77	6
1657					1707	23	1½	27	3	1757	53	4	1807	78	0	1807	78	0	1807	49	8
1658					1708	27	3	46	2¾	1758	44	5½	1808	85	3	1808	85	3	1808	45	6
1659					1709	57	5¾	81	9½	1759	35	3	1809	106	0	1809	106	0	1809	27	9
1660					1710	81	9½	56	10½	1760	32	5½	1810	112	0	1810	112	0	1810	26	0
1661					1711	44	5½	51	6¾	1761	26	10½	1811	108	0	1811	108	0	1811	38	8
1662					1712	48	7	33	9½	1762	34	8	1812	118	0	1812	118	0	1812	38	0

TABLE No. VIII. CONTINUED.

Years.	Price at Lady Day.		Price at Michaelmas of the Year.		Years.	Price at Lady Day.		Price at Michaelmas of the Year.		Years.	Price of Wheat in England.		Price of Wheat at Berlin.		Years.	Price of Wheat in England.		Price of Wheat at Berlin.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
1663	49	9½	51	6½	1713	33	9½	56	10½	1763	36	17½	1813	120	0	36	8		
1664	49	9½	46	2½	1714	55	1½	34	4½	1764	41	6½	1814	85	0	39	4		
1665	45	0	42	8	1715	32	0	44	5½	1765	48	0	1815	76	0	38	3		
1666	35	6½	28	5½	1716	42	8	42	8	1766	43	1½	1816	86	0	65	10		
1667	28	5½	35	6½	1717	40	0	40	10½	1767	57	4	1817	116	0	54	7		
1668	30	9½	40	3½	1718	37	4	32	0	1768	53	9	1818	98	0	51	8		
1669	42	8	37	4	1719	28	10½	33	2	1769	40	8	1819	78	0	34	0		
1670	37	4	36	9	1720	32	0	33	9½	1770	43	6½	1820	76	0	31	8		
1671	35	6½	39	1½	1721	35	6½	31	1½	1771	50	8	1821	71	0	30	8		
1672	36	9	37	4	1722	32	0	32	0	1772	58	0	1822	53	0	26	10		
1673	35	6½	47	5	1723	29	7½	32	0	1773	59	1½	1823	57	0	26	6		
1674	64	0	58	1	1724	32	0	33	9½	1774	55	1	1824	72	0	20	4		
1675	56	10½	47	5	1725	37	4	48	10½	1775	51	4	1825	84	0	21	0		
1676	35	6½	32	0	1726	46	2½	35	6½	1776	42	8	1826	73	0	29	6		
1677	30	2½	44	5½	1727	32	10½	41	9½	1777	48	10½	1827	53	6	26	6		
1678	48	0	56	10½	1728	49	2½	47	5	1778	44	0	1828	51	5	38	0		
1679	53	4	42	8	1729	45	4	39	1½	1779	36	2½	1829	74	10	30	0		
1680	37	4	42	8	1730	32	10½	32	0	1780	43	1½	1830	64	3	42	0		
1681	37	11	45	0½	1731	30	2½	28	5½	1781	52	5½	1831	66	4	40	0		
1682	35	6½	42	8	1732	24	3½	23	1½	1782	53	9½	1832	58	8	27	0		
1683	39	1½	32	0	1733	25	5½	25	2½	1783	54	2½	1833	52	11	25	3		
1684	35	6½	42	8	1734	29	7½	27	4	1784	53	9½	1834	46	2	30	0		
1685	47	5	35	6½	1735	35	6½	37	4	1785	48	0	1835	39	4	24	0		
1686	28	5½	32	0	1736	34	4½	37	4	1786	42	2½	1836	48	6	26	9		
1687	34	0½	29	0½	1737	34	2½	32	10½	1787	45	9½	1837	55	10	26	0		
1688	24	10½	21	4	1738	32	10½	30	2½	1788	49	4	1838	64	7	45	0		
1689	23	1½	30	2½	1739	31	5	34	11½	1789	56	1½	1839	70	8	43	0		
1690	32	7	29	0½	1740	41	9½	56	0	1790	56	2½	1840	67	8	33	0		

TABLE No. IX.—WHOLESALE PRICE OF MUTTON,
(PER WHOLE SHEEP,) IN SMITHFIELD MARKET, AT PENCE PER POUND,
IN THE FIRST WEEK IN EACH MONTH, IN THE YEARS 1803 TO 1841 INCLUSIVE.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mch.	Apl.	May.	June	July.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
1803	7½	7½	8	7	7½	7½	8	7½	7½	5½	6½	6½
1804	7	6½	7	6½	6½	7½	6½	5½	6	5½	5½	5½
1805	6½	6	6	6	6½	6	6	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½
1806	6½	6½	7½	7½	7½	7½	6½	6½	6½	6½	6½	6½
1807	7½	7	6½	6½	6½	6½	6½	6½	7	5½	6	6
1808	6	5½	6½	6½	7	7½	6½	6½	6½	6	5½	6
1809	6	7½	8½	8½	7½	8½	7	6½	6½	6½	6½	6½
1810	8	7½	7½	8	8½	7½	7½	7½	7½	7½	7½	7½
1811	7½	7½	7	7½	8	8½	7½	8	7½	7½	7½	7½
1812	7	7	8	7½	7½	8½	8½	8	8½	7½	7½	8
1813	8	8½	9½	10	9	9	9	8½	8	8	8	9
1814	9½	9½	10½	10	10	9	8½	8	8	7½	7½	7½
1815	8	7	7½	7½	6½	6½	6½	6½	6½	6½	6½	6½
1816	6	5½	6	5½	6½	7	6½	6½	6	5½	5½	5½
1817	5½	6	6½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5	6
1818	6½	7	8	8	7½	7	7	7	7	7½	8	7½
1819	7	7	7½	8	8	7½	7½	7½	7½	7	7	6½
1820	7	7	7½	7½	8½	8½	7½	7½	7	6	5½	5½
1821	6	6	6	5½	5½	5½	5	5	4½	5	4½	4½
1822	4	4½	4½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
1823	3½	4	5	5	5½	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
1824	5½	5	5	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½
1825	5½	6	7	7	7	7½	6½	6½	6½	6½	6½	6½
1826	6	6½	6	6½	6½	6½	5½	6	6	6	5½	5½
1827	5½	5½	5½	6½	7	6½	6½	6½	6½	6	6	5½
1828	6	7	7½	7	6½	6	6	6	6	6	5½	6
1829	7	6½	6½	6½	6½	6	6	6½	5½	5½	5½	6
1830	6	6	6	6½	5½	5½	6	5½	5½	5½	5½	6
1831	6	6	7	6½	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6½
1832	6	6½	6	6½	6	6	6	6	6	5½	5½	5
1833	6½	6½	6½	6½	6½	6	6	6½	6	5½	5½	6
1834	5½	5	5½	5½	5	5½	5	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½
1835	5	4½	4½	4½	5½	5½	5½	4½	5½	4½	4½	4½
1836	5	5	6	7½	6½	6½	5½	5½	5½	5	5	5
1837	6	6	6½	6	7	6	6	6	6	6	5½	5
1838	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	6	6	6	5½	5½	5½
1839	6	5½	6	6½	6	6	6	6	6	6	5½	5½
1840	6½	5½	6	6	6½	6½	6½	6½	6½	6	5½	6
1841	5	6	7	7	6	7	6	6	6	6	6	6

TABLE No. X.—TABLE OF THE FOREIGN TRADE OF GREAT BRITAIN,

WITH PRICE OF WHEAT, OF GOLD, AND THE NUMBER OF COMMISSIONS OF BANKRUPTS, FROM 1791 TO 1840.

Year.	Tonnage.		Official Value of		Price of Wheat.		Price of Gold.		Number of Bankrupts.
	Inwards. Tons.	Outwards. Tons.	Imports. £.	Exports. £.	s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.		
1791	1,773,862	1,696,023	19,669,782	22,731,995	42 0	...	.....	769
1792	1,891,799	1,639,300	19,659,358	24,405,200	42 4	...	.....	934
1793	1,675,327	1,427,231	19,256,717	20,390,180	47 2	...	.....	1,956
1794	1,786,991	1,600,817	22,288,894	26,748,083	49 8	...	.....	1,041
1795	1,632,815	1,529,017	22,736,889	27,123,338	55 7	...	.....	879
1796	1,995,018	1,732,984	23,187,319	30,518,913	89 10	...	.....	954
1797	1,605,900	1,500,052	21,013,956	28,917,010	55 9	...	.....	1,115
1798	1,709,172	1,684,870	27,857,889	33,591,777	51 5	...	.....	911
1799	1,851,765	1,717,323	26,837,432	35,991,329	49 2	...	.....	717
1800	2,143,043	2,130,322	30,570,605	43,152,019	92 7	...	3 17 10½	951	
1801	1,702,749	...	31,786,262	37,786,856	139 0	...	4 5 0	1,199	
1802	1,813,256	1,634,804	29,826,210	41,411,966	75 6	...	4 4 0	1,090	
1803	1,753,806	1,525,207	26,622,696	31,578,495	57 1	...	4 0 0	1,214	
1804	1,512,231	1,493,856	27,819,552	34,151,367	52 3	...	4 0 0	1,117	
1805	1,645,133	1,577,317	28,561,270	34,951,845	86 2	...	4 0 0	1,129	
1806	1,515,271	1,407,744	26,899,658	36,527,184	75 11	...	4 0 0	1,268	
1807	2,068,611	2,051,013	29,556,336	34,566,571	76 9	...	4 0 0	1,362	
1808	1,597,113	2,654,955	29,620,353	34,544,267	69 5	...	4 0 0	1,433	
1809	2,298,860	2,230,002	33,772,409	50,286,900	90 4	...	4 0 0	1,382	
1810	2,785,331	2,762,801	41,136,145	45,869,859	102 6	...	4 10 6	2,314	
1811	2,209,158	2,203,585	28,626,580	32,409,671	94 7	...	4 4 6	2,500	
1812	2,098,158	2,206,420	26,163,431	43,243,172	106 7	...	4 15 6	2,228	
1813	...	...	...	...	119 10	...	5 1 0	1,953
1814	2,413,186	2,447,268	35,659,788	56,591,514	76 7	...	5 4 0	1,612	

TABLE No. X. CONTINUED.

Year.	Tonnage.		Official Value of		Price of Wheat.			Price of Gold.		Number of Bankrupts.
	Inwards.	Outwards.	Imports.	Exports.	s.	d.	s.	£.	s.	d.
1815	2,649,421	2,777,366	35,987,582	60,978,309	65	8	67	4	13	6
1816	2,284,467	2,317,326	27,425,540	51,243,574	53	7	73	4	13	6
1817	2,642,467	2,645,370	30,799,838	53,125,132	104	10	109	4	0	0
1818	3,161,290	3,072,409	36,900,682	56,851,319	85	4	84	4	0	0
1819	2,901,244	2,745,050	30,748,146	46,912,492	78	10		4	1	6
1820	2,183,072	1,959,560	29,654,848	42,802,810	81	0		3	19	11
1821	1,998,153	1,836,938	31,484,108	48,343,861	54	6		3	17	10½
1822	1,878,992	1,774,145	29,675,320	50,865,773	43	11		3	17	8½
1823	2,133,337	1,996,802	30,530,663	44,236,533	40	3		3	17	6
1824	2,326,055	2,110,547	35,798,707	43,804,372	58	9		3	17	6
1825	2,556,760	2,404,240	37,547,827	48,735,551	65	10		3	17	9½
1826	3,102,730	2,699,514	44,208,807	47,150,689	60	5		3	17	6
1827	2,644,746	2,429,865	37,686,113	40,965,735	53	6		3	17	6
1828	2,838,762	2,655,503	44,887,774	52,219,280	51	5		3	17	6
1829	2,728,577	2,614,515	43,396,527	52,797,455	74	10		3	17	9½
1830	2,894,828	2,793,429	43,981,317	56,213,041	64	3		3	17	9½
1831	2,938,870	2,860,515	46,245,241	61,140,864	66	4		3	17	10½
1832	3,241,927	3,196,782	49,713,889	60,683,933	58	8		3	17	9½
1833	2,825,949	2,280,492	44,586,741	65,026,702	52	11		3	17	9½
1834	2,945,899	3,002,875	45,952,551	69,989,339	46	2		3	17	9
1835	3,132,168	3,149,152	49,362,811	73,851,550	39	4		3	17	9
1836	3,309,724	3,325,211	48,911,542	78,376,731	48	6		3	17	9½
1837	3,494,372	3,566,697	57,023,667	85,229,837	55	10		3	17	9
1838	3,623,106	3,583,965	61,268,320	105,170,549	64	7		3	17	9
1839	3,957,468	3,085,752	62,004,000	110,198,716	70	8		3	17	9½
1840	4,105,207	3,392,626	67,432,964	102,705,372	67	8		3	17	9½

WHEEL

ILVG LABOR

RUSSIAN

22	23	24	25	26
5,000,000		28,000,000	23,000,000	21,000,000
12/	12/	12/	12/	12/
UNITED FREE AT 65				

PCHIN LANE, 1

TABLE No. X. CONTINUED.

Year.	Tonnage.		Official Value of		Price of Wheat.		Price of Gold.		Number of Bankrupts.
	Inwards. Tons.	Outwards. Tons.	Imports. £.	Exports. £.	s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.		
1815	2,649,421	2,777,366	35,987,582	60,978,309	65	8	4 13 6		2,284
1816	2,284,467	2,317,326	27,425,540	51,243,574	53	7	4 13 6		2,731
1817	2,642,467	2,645,370	30,799,838	53,125,132	104	10	4 0 0		1,927
1818	3,161,290	3,072,409	36,900,682	56,851,319	85	4	4 0 0		1,245
1819	2,401,244	2,745,050	30,748,146	46,912,492	78	10	4 1 6		1,499
1820	2,183,072	1,959,560	29,654,848	42,802,810	81	0	3 19 11		1,381
1821	1,998,153	1,836,938	31,484,108	48,343,861	54	6	3 17 10		1,238
1822	1,878,992	1,774,145	29,675,320	50,865,773	43	11	3 17 8		1,094
1823	2,133,337	1,996,802	30,530,663	44,236,533	40	3	3 17 6		1,250
1824	2,325,055	2,110,547	35,708,707	43,804,372	58	9	3 17 6		1,240
1825	2,556,760	2,404,240	37,547,827	48,735,551	65	10	3 17 9		1,475
1826	3,102,730	2,689,514	44,208,807	47,150,689	60	5	3 17 6		3,307
1827	2,644,746	2,429,865	37,686,113	40,965,735	53	6	3 17 6		1,688
1828	2,838,762	2,655,503	44,887,774	52,219,280	51	5	3 17 6		1,519
1829	2,728,577	2,614,515	43,306,527	52,797,455	74	10	3 17 9		2,150
1830	2,894,828	2,793,429	43,981,317	56,213,041	64	3	3 17 9		1,783
1831	2,938,870	2,860,515	46,245,211	61,140,864	66	4	3 17 10		1,886
1832	3,241,927	3,196,782	49,713,889	60,683,933	58	8	3 17 9		1,722
1833	2,825,949	2,280,492	44,586,741	65,026,702	52	11	3 17 9		1,294
1834	2,945,899	3,002,875	45,342,551	69,489,339	46	2	3 17 9		1,270
1835	3,132,168	3,149,152	49,302,811	73,851,550	39	4	3 17 9		1,309
1836	3,309,724	3,325,211	48,911,542	78,376,731	48	6	3 17 9		1,116
1837	3,491,372	3,566,097	57,023,667	85,229,837	65	10	3 17 9		1,964
1838	3,623,105	3,583,956	61,988,380	105,170,442	64	7	3 17 9		3,007



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

INDEX.

	Vol.	Page.		Vol.	Page.
ABSTRACT of Laws on Wool .	1	257	Asiatic Sheep	2	327
Abyssinia, Sheep of	2	290	-----	2	296
Acts of Parliament Beneficial	1	90	-----	2	288
Africa, Barrow's Travels in .	2	291	Asiatic Society	2	327
----- Burchell's Travels in .	2	292	Annals, Manufactures at . .	1	78
----- Sheep of	2	288	Auncel in weighing	1	53
Agriculturists' Account of			Australia, Sheep of	2	342
Wool Exported	1	242	-----, probable Increase of		
Agriculturists' Attention to			Sheep	2	182
Wool	1	246	Austria, Attention to Sheep in	1	388
Agriculturists' Exertions to get					
a Tax on Foreign Wool . .	1	402	BAINES's History of Cotton		
Agriculturists, Meetings of . .	1	450	Trade	1	275
Agriculture, Past and Present			Bakewell's Observations on the		
State of	2	134	Effect of Soil and Climate		
Alexandria, Trade of	1	33	on Wool	1	382
Alpaca, Account of	1	398	Baltic, Inhabitants and Pro-		
-----	2	336	duction	1	41
----- proposed Naturalization			Banks, Sir Joseph, on English		
in England	2	340	Wool sent to France . . .	1	243
Altona Mercury, Extracts from	1	204	----- Farming		
Alva, Duke of, Persecutions .	1	62	Sheep	1	264
America, South, Wool unport-			Banks, George, Correspondence		
ed from	1	399	with Lord Milton, Lord Har-		
America, United States, Lord			wood, and Mr. Wortley . .	2	46
Sheffield on the Woollen			Barff, W., Evidence on Wool	1	405
Trade with	1	174	Barrow's Account of Southern		
----- In-			Africa	2	291
roduction of Merino Sheep	2	334	Barbary, Sheep of	2	296
----- Num-			Bath Agricultural Society . .	1	247
ber of Sheep in 1840 . . .	2	335	Beche, on the Income Tax . .	1	274
----- Agri-			Beckett, Sir John, Letter to	2	6
cultural and Manufacturing			Bedford, Duke of, his Sheep		
Produce	2	335	Shearing	1	265
Ancient Commerce	1	26	Berkshire, Sheep of	1	261
Akroyd, J. and J., their Im-			Bexley, Lord, proposed Tax on		
provements in the Worsted			Wool	1	3
Manufacture	2	415	Bezuel, Lewis, his Manufactory		
Anderson, Dr., Essay on Sheep	1	247	at Annale	1	78
Anglo Merino Sheep	2	375	Bilboa, Wool Exported from .	1	338
Anne, Queen, Woollen Trade			Bischoff, James, Evidence be-		
in her Reign	1	92	fore the House of Lords, vol.		
Angola Sheep	2	294	ii., pp. 155, 167, 184, 190, 196,		
Angora, double Coated Goat of	2	307	199.		
----- Goat of	2	298	Bischoff's Reasons for immedi-		
----- Hair of	2	298	ate Repeal of Wool Tax . .	1	453
----- Shawls of	2	306	----- Letter to Sir John		
Anstie, John, Letter to Bath			Beckett	2	5
Agricultural Society	1	249	----- Answer to Lord Shef-		
Armata, Answer to	1	430	field	1	447
----- by Lord Erskine . . .	1	428	----- Correspondence with		
Arkwright, Sir Richard . . .	1	275	Lord Milton	1	410
-----	1	296	----- with		
-----'s Spinning Machine	1	303	Manufacturers	2	69
Arts, Encouragement of, in Ne-			----- with		
therlands	1	43	Mr Huskisson	2	69
Arvieux, Chevalier, Travels in			----- with		
the East	1	14	Lord Western	2	380

	Vol.	Page.		Vol.	Page.
Blackburn, Riots at ...	1	302	Cheshire Weaver, Letter from, 1727 ...	1	13
Bohemia, Manufactures of.....	1	349	Child, Sir Josiah ...	1	7
Bosman on Guinea Sheep ...	2	295	..... on the East India Trade...	1	9
Boys, Henry, Evidence before the House of Lords, vol. ii. pp. 139, 185.			Chinese Sheep ...	2	33
Bostock's, Dr., Physiology ...	2	281	Climate, Influence of on Wool	1	32
Bourgoing on Spanish Wool, Manufactures, and Sheep	1	339	Cloth, White, Manufacture of	1	144
Branding Sheep with Pitch, Petitions against ...	1	146	..... from Short Wool ...	1	15
Bradford, Wages at ...	2	271	..... Dyed in Wool ...	1	138
....., Poor Rates at ...	1	183	..... Manufacturers, Petition from ...	1	179
Breeds of Sheep, Earliest ..	1	19	....., Vanrobais' Patent for Making ...	1	77
..... English Sheep ...	1	250	..... Fair ...	2	123
Bright's Travels in Lower Hungary ...	1	349	Clothing made from Sheep Skins ...	2	32
British Merchant, Periodical Publication ...	1	91	..... Districts, Distress in, 1819 ...	2	1
..... Sheep ...	2	272	Coke, T. W., his improved Sheep	1	35
..... Produce and Manufacture, Value of, 1794-1797.	1	272	Cockayne, Alderman ...	1	65
..... Wool, Manufactures from	2	173	Coke, Lord, Mottoes from Speech of, in 1621 ...	1	223
..... and Irish Wool, Quality of ...	2	192	Combing Machine, Cartwright's	1	317
Brooke, J., Honley, Evidence before the House of Lords, vol. ii. pp. 149, 163, 172			..... Platt's	2	403
Brooke, John, Dewsbury, Evidence before the House of Lords, vol. ii., pp. 134, 170, 194			..... Wool adapted for ...	2	154
Broom, John, Letter from ...	2	77	Colbert, his Attention to Woollen Manufacture ...	1	389
Brown, W. R., Evidence before the House of Lords, vol. ii., pp. 122, 127.			Colonies, Exports to ...	1	271
Bull, Mr., Evidence before the House of Lords, vol. ii., pp. 122, 123, 145.			Commerce during the Roman Empire ...	1	38
Burchell's Travels in Africa ...	2	292	..... after the fall of the Roman Empire ...	1	39
CABOOL, Wool of ...	2	326	..... Ancient, Prideaux's	1	26
Caffres ...	2	292	..... Macpherson's Annals of...	1	243
Calcraft, J. C., Evidence before the House of Lords ...	2	128	Committee of the House of Lords, 1828 ...	2	118
Calicoes, Coloured, Improvement in ...	1	97	..... Commons, 1816	1	408
Campbell, W. F., Evidence before the House of Lords	2	139	Complaints of Graziers, 1726...	1	115
Cape of Good Hope, Settlement of ...	2	292	Consideration of the Laws respecting Wool ...	1	177
..... Merino Sheep at ...	1	391	..... of the Wool Trade ...	1	219
.....	2	291	Concessions, Prussian ...	1	200
.....	1	261	Consolidation Bill passed ...	2	92
Carding Machine, Paul's ...	1	311	Conolly on the White-haired Goat of Angora ...	2	298
Cartwright, Dr., Inventor of Power Loom ...	1	317	Contrast between Woollen, Linen, and Silk Manufactures	1	236
Carpet Manufacture ...	1	469	Cook, Thomas, Evidence before the House of Lords, vol. ii., pp. 132, 162, 174, 180, 195.	1	276
Carding Engine ...	2	393	Cotton Manufactures ...	1	276
Cashmere, Travels in, by Hugel	2	312	..... and Prices of Mutton ...	2	133
Caudwell, Wm., Evidence before the House of Lords ...	2	142	..... Effects of on Woollen ...	2	177
Ceylon, Sheep of ...	2	329	Cotton Machinery ...	1	315
Chaulnes, Duke of ...	1	163	Crimea, Sheep of ...	2	351
Chapman's Report of the State of Yorkshire...	2	417	Cumberland, Sheep of...	1	258
Cheshire, Sheep of ...	1	329	Cunnington, William, Evidence before House of Lords, vol. ii., pp. 146, 154, 162.		
			Cyprus, Sheep of ...	2	356
			DALRYMPLE, Sir John, on Exportation of Wool ...	1	217

	Vol.	Page		Vol.	Page
David, King, his Trade with Ophir and Tarshish	1	28	England, Superiority of Woollens of, 1774	1	173
Daubenton, Extracts from	1	349	West of, Decline of Woollen Manufacture	2	416
Denmark, Sheep of	2	347	Erskine, Lord, "Armata"	1	428
Encouragement of Merino	1	385	Letter to, from "Philopatria"	1	430
Deputation from Woollen Districts, 1734	1	177	Katerhazy, Prince, his Sheep	2	368
Donaldson's, Stewart, Evidence before the House of Lords, vol. i., 158, 183			Estimate of Woollen Trade	1	184
Doumba, of the Himalaya	2	330	Ethiopia, &c	2	290
Dorsetshire, Sheep of	1	261	Europe, introduction of Merino Sheep into different States of	1	385
Dorset, Duke of, Letter to a Woollen Manufacturer in Ireland, 1731	1	126	Exports of Woollens, 1612-13	1	65
Dresses in Early Times	1	17	1621-22	1	67
Duke, Thomas, Evidence before the House of Lords, vol. ii., pp. 123, 137, 142, 159			1662-63	1	71
Durham, Sheep of	1	263	to Colonies, 1790	1	271
Dutch Settlement at the Cape of Good Hope	2	392	to Germany, 1790-97	1	271
Sheep	2	350	of British Manufactures and Produce, 1794-97	1	272
Duties, Protecting	1	450	of Woollens, 1772-76	1	176
Duty on Foreign Wool	1	462	1790-99	1	328
Duties, Effect of, on Trade	2	156	of Wool from Spain	1	338
Dyeing, early known	1	16	of Woollen and Worsted Goods, 1816, 1819	1	459
of the Jews	1	17	of English Manufactures	1	482
Duties thereon	2	266	of Woollens, 1837-19	2	9
Dyer's "Fleece"	1	164	of English Sheep and Wool prevented	2	19
			of Goods made from Short Wool	2	26
East, Ancient Trade of	1	14	and Imports of Woollen Cloth	2	155
Elsworth, Thomas, Evidence before House of Lords, vol. ii., pp. 121, 126			and Transit of Woollens from Prussian League	2	363
Eden, Sir Frederick Morton, Letter on the Peace	1	270	of Wool	1	330
Edinburgh Review on the Woollen Trade	2	23	of Cloth during the Tax on Wool	2	34
Edward's Account of the Woollen Trade in Wilt	2	416		2	252
Edward I., Tax on Exportation of Wool	1	53	Exportation of Wool from Spain, at reduced Duty	1	483
Edward III., Exportation of Wool made Felony by	1	54	of Wool, Maitland on	1	426
Tax on Exportation of Woollens	1	55	of Woollens from Ireland, 1730	1	128
Woollen Trade encouraged by	1	46	of Wool from Great Britain to Ireland	1	331
Egypt, Sheep of	2	290	Excidium Anglice	1	123
Elizabeth, Woollen Trade in the Reign of	1	60	Exodus, Mendelsohn, Translation of	1	17
Ellman, John, Evidence, before House of Lords, vol. ii., pp. 122, 124			Ezekiel, Extracts from	1	25
jun., vol. n. 123, 135, 137, 139			Ornaments enumerated	1	36
England, Wool of, during Roman Empire	1	46	FACTORY, first mention of	1	167
England, Improvement in Cotton Trade, 1722	1	87	Fairs in Germany, Wool Sold at	2	362
Loss of Trade	1	30	Famine in the time of Herod, effect of	1	85
Importation of Cotton Manufactures from India	1	87	Farmer's Journal	1	416
and Spain, Treaty between	1	64	Fawcett, Richard, Letter from	2	270
English Wool, Luccock on	1	371	Richard, Evidence before House of Commons	1	408
			Fellows's Travels in Lycia	1	14
			Account of Goat's Hair Tents	1	14
			on the earliest Breed of Sheep	1	19
			Felting	2	284

	Vol.	Page.		Vol.	Page.
Felony, Exportation of Wool made	1	54	Gott, Benjamin, his exertion for the Woollen Trade ...	1	1
Figure Weaving	2	414	----- Circular to Manufacturing Towns ...	2	31
Fink, the German Agriculturist	1	388	----- Evidence on Woollen Trade ...	1	326
Fison, James, Evidence before House of Lords, vol. ii., pp. 122, 131, 147			----- Letter from ...	2	75
Flanders, Sheep of	2	350	----- his application of Machinery to the Woollen Trade ..	1	315
"Fleece," Dyer's	1	167	----- Letter to ...	2	18
Fleeces, average Weight of ...	2	374	----- Evidence before House of Lords, vol. ii., pp. 150, 165, 175, 181, 189, 195, 198		
Florence, Woollen Manufacture of	1	40	Grazier's Complaint	1	115
----- Advance in Arts and Luxury	1	40	Great Britain, Merino Sheep in	1	392
----- effect of Decline of Woollen Trade	1	40	Greece, Sheep of	2	355
Fly Shuttle, invention of	1	278	Grenville's, Lord, Speech on Free Trade	2	433
Food, Prices of, 1800, 1835 ...	2	419	Guanaco	1	398
Foreign Wool, Goods made from	1	176	Guadalaxera, Manufactures of	1	339
Foreign and Home Trade, proportion of the Woollen ...	2	171	Guinea, Sheep of	2	295
Foreign Wool Taxed	1	452	Gurney, Edmund, Evidence before House of Commons ...	1	154
----- Markets, Woollens sent to	2	20	HALIFAX, Earl of	1	95
----- Countries, Woollens sent to	2	34	----- Poor-rate, &c., at... ..	1	183
Foster, Dr., on the Landed and Manufacturing Interest ...	1	228	----- Prices of Woollens	1	186
France, Cloth of	2	198	Hall, Francis, Evidence before House of Lords, vol. ii., pp. 126, 128, 136		
----- Plague in	1	97	Hall, George Webb, Evidence before House of Lords, vol. ii., pp. 122, 126, 135, 141 ...		
----- Sheep of	1	389	Hamburgh Company	1	71
-----	2	358	Hanning, William, Evidence before House of Lords ...	2	142
----- Wool, Exportation of	1	243	Hand Spinning	1	280
----- Woollen Manufacture of	1	80	Hanover, Sheep of	2	349
Francis, J. C., Evidence before House of Lords, vol. ii., pp. 150, 175	1	69	Hanway's Travels in Persia ...	1	272
Frawstad, Manufacture at	1	69	Hargreaves' Spinning Machine	1	302
Frazer's Account of Persian Sheep	2	297	----- Description of	1	308
French and Flemish Refugees	1	59	Harewood, Earl of, Letter to ...	2	48
GANDY, Letter from	2	77	----- Exertions to prevent Committee in the House of Lords	2	110
Gentleman's Magazine, extracts from	1	223	----- Speech in the House of Lords	2	249
George I., his Speech, 1714 ...	1	96	Healey, Richard, Evidence before House of Lords, vol. ii., pp. 124, 138, 156, 186		
George III., his Merino Sheep	1	359	Heeren on the Purple Dye ...	1	19
German Merchants, 1726	1	58	Henry II., Grant to Clothiers	2	423
Germany, Exports, to	1	272	Henry III., Woollen Trade ...	2	424
Germany, Slade's Ditto	2	352	Herefordshire, Sheep of ...	1	261
----- Jacob's Ditto	1	355	Herod, Famine in his Reign ...	1	35
Gig Mills	1	400	Highland Society	1	248
Gloucestershire, Sheep of ...	1	261	Highs's Spinning Machine ...	1	296
----- Mill Property in	2	436	Himalayan Mountains	2	316
Glover, W., Letter on Wool Trade	1	207	----- Wild Sheep	2	321
Goats of Lycia	1	14	Hindes and Derham's, their Combing Machinery ...	2	403
----- White-haired of Angora	2	298	Hindustan, Loom of	2	406
----- Double Coated Ditto	2	307	Hirst, William, his Improvements in Fine Cloth ...	2	401
Godolphin, S. Wm., his Treaty with Spain	1	72	Hodskin's Travels in Germany	2	349
Goguet on Purple Dye	1	19			
Gold of Ophir, quantity of ...	1	27			
Goodman, George, Evidence before House of Lords, vol. ii., pp. 150, 154, 155, 164					

	Vol.	Page.		Vol.	Page.
Hodgson's Acct. of Wild Sheep	2	321	Inventions, History of	1	27
Hogg, James	1	1	India, British	2	407
Hohler, E. C., Evidence before			----- Sheep of	2	317
House of Lords	2	191	----- Weaving in	2	407
Holkham, Sheep Shearing	1	269	India, Mill & History of	2	407
Holland, Sheep of	1	391	----- Custom in	1	16
----- Woollens sent to	1	271	----- Sheep of, by Mr. Traill	2	318
Home Trade, proportion of	2	155	----- Sheep of, by Major		
Hosiery in Henry the Eighth's			Kennedy	2	319
Time	2	421	Inspectors at Fulling Mills,		
----- Invention of Stocking			Act for the appointment of	1	172
Frame	2	421	----- Act respecting	2	32
Hunyadi, Graf, his Sheep	1	351	Jowitt's, Robert, Evidence be-		
Hubbard, James, Evidence			fore the House of Lords,		
before House of Lords, vol.			vol. ii. pp. 130, 144		
n., pp. 122, 148, 153, 162,			Ireland, restriction on Trade in	1	7
172, 178, 185			----- exportation of Wool-		
Hugel's Travels in Cashmere	2	312	lens from, suppressed	1	88
Hughes, Henry, Evidence before			----- Union with	1	319
House of Lords, vol. ii., pp.			----- Manufacturers of, set-		
124, 140, 157, 171, 177, 179,			tled in France	1	88
182, 197			----- State of, in 1731	1	128
Hungary, Wool of	2	363	----- Law respecting	1	320
----- Paget's Travels in	2	364	----- Pamphlets respecting	1	113
----- Bright's Travels in	1	349	----- Trade of	1	138
----- Shepherds of	2	365	----- Smuggling Wool from	1	130
Hurwitz, Professor, on early			----- Quantities of Wool	2	192
Manufactures	1	11	----- Pamphlets relating to		
----- on Purple, Scarlet,			the Woollen Trade of	1	111
and Blue	1	17	Ireland, William, Evidence be-		
Huskisson, Right Hon. Wil-			fore the House of Lords,		
ham, Opinion of Woollen			vol. ii. pp. 134, 152, 170, 176,		
Manufactures	1	6	178, 185, 194		
----- his Liberal Mea-			Italy, Merino Sheep in	1	392
sure, 1825	2	69	----- Sheep of	2	356
----- Letter from Manu-	2	85	----- Woollen Trade of	2	432
facturing Districts on	2	72	KAY, Inventor of Fly Shuttle	1	278
Hustler, Examination of, before			Kennedy, Major, Account of		
House of Commons	1	323	Sheep of East India	3	319
JACOB's Travels in Germany	1	355	Kermes dye	1	22
Jacquard Loom	2	415	Kerman, Manufactures of	3	296
James I., Trade in the reign of	1	64	King, Henry, evidence before		
Jarvis on Wool and Woollens in			the House of Lords, vol. ii.		
United States of America	2	333	pp. 122, 126, 136, 142		
Java, Sheep of	2	329	Knitting, introduction of	2	421
Jenkins's Evidence before the			Khorasan, manufactures of	2	296
House of Commons	1	326	LAINES, Memoire sur les	1	163
Jenny, Hargreaves's Spinning	1	302	Lama of Thibet	2	313
Jews excluded from Trade	1	27	-----	1	398
Jews, Ancient Trade of, in the			Laws regulating Manufacture		
East	1	30	of Woollens, 1765	1	173
Iceland, Sheep of	2	348	Laws regulating the Woollen		
-----	1	261	Trade with Ireland	1	320
----- Mackenzie's Travels in	1	396	Laws, Abstract of, relating to		
Ilott, William, Evidence before			Wool and Woollens	1	257
the House of Lords	2	137	Law's (Lord Ellenborough)		
Import Duties	1	7	Speech on the Woollen Trade	1	321
Imports from the East Indies	1	87	League, Hanseatic	1	41
----- of Wool, 1783	1	242	----- Prussian	2	362
----- 1791	1	330	Leeds, Merchants of	1	180
----- from South			----- Meeting at	2	40
America, 1807	1	399	----- Parish of, and Poor Rate	1	182
Imports of Wool, 1816, 1819	1	461	Legg, Thomas, Evidence be-		
----- Woollen Rags	2	179	fore the House of Lords, vol.		
----- Woollen Cloths	2	155	pp. ii. 122, 125, 140		
----- various articles	2	268	Leicester, Sheep of	1	262

	Vol.	Page.		Vol.	Page.
Leicester New Sheep ...	2	370	Marco Polo, travels of ...	2	31
Leicestershire ...	1	265	Manual, Mountain Shepherd's ...	2	27
Leviticus ...	1	22	Masseau's Manufacture from ...	1	7
Lewes Wool Fair ...	1	472	Spanish Wool ...	1	7
.....	1	416	Martin's Circle of Mechanical ...	2	40
Linen Manufactures in Ireland	1	88	Arts ...	2	40
Lister, William, his Combing ...	2	405	Mariner's Compass ...	1	4
Machine ...	2	405	Mercator, or Commerce Retrieved	1	9
Liverpool, Earl of, Maitland's ...	2	3	Memoire, sur les Laines ...	1	16
Letter to ...	2	3	Memorial respecting Brit. Wool	1	25
Liverpool, Earl of, Opinion on ...	1	2	Members of Committee of the ...	2	11
Wool Laws ...	1	2	House of Lords, 1828 ...	2	11
..... his proposal ...	2	17	Mendlesohn's Translation of ...	1	17
of Free Trade in Wool ...	2	37	Exodus ...	1	17
..... interview with ...	2	37	Merchant Adventurers ...	1	6
..... his repeated ...	2	37	Merino Sheep in different ...	1	38
proposal of free trade in Wool	2	37	Countries ...	1	38
..... earliest account of ...	1	13	Merino Sheep at the Cape of ...	1	39
Liberty, Civil and Religious, ...	2	433	Good Hope ...	1	39
necessary to Manufactures...	2	433	Merino Sheep of Great Britain	1	39
Lincolnshire, price of Wool in, ...	1	405	..... Italy...	1	39
in 1789 ...	1	405	..... United States ...	2	33
Longevity of Lycian Shepherds	1	16	of America ...	2	33
Loom, Cartwright's Power ...	1	317	..... Prussia ...	2	36
..... Jacquard ...	2	415	.....	1	5
..... English ...	2	409	Merchants, German ...	1	5
Luccock on English Wool ...	1	371	Millar's Historical View of the ...	1	3
Luddites ...	1	400	British Government ...	1	41
MACARTHUR on Australian Sheep	1	366	Milton, Lord, Letter from ...	2	5
Machine, Willying ...	2	390	..... Letter to ...	2	5
..... for Wool, (Walker's)	2	393	Mill's History of British India	2	40
..... Combing ...	2	403	Moegelin, Sheep of ...	1	35
..... Platt's ...	2	403	Moldavia, Sheep of ...	2	35
..... Roving ...	2	404	Moorcroft's account of Purek ...	2	31
..... Brushing ...	2	400	Sheep ...	2	31
..... Spinning ...	1	282	Moravia, Sheep of ...	2	35
..... Stocking ...	2	421	Mutton, Price of ...	2	13
Machinery, improvements in...	1	401	Mouflon, or Musmon ...	2	33
Macpherson's Annals of Com- ...	1	243	NAMES of Witnesses examined ...	2	11
merce ...	1	243	before Committee of Lords	2	11
McCulloch on Woollen Manu- ...	2	23	Naples, Sheep of ...	1	34
factures ...	2	23	Napier's, Lord, Evidence before ...	1	34
Madagascar, Sheep of ...	2	291	the House of Lords, vol. ii. ...	1	34
Maitland, John, on Export of ...	1	426	pp. 124, 137, 138.	1	34
Wool and Duty on Imports	1	426	Naturalization of Alpaca ...	2	33
..... Letter to Lord ...	2	3	Naylor's, J. Evidence before the ...	1	32
Liverpool ...	2	3	House of Commons ...	1	32
..... to Mr. Gott...	2	18	Netherlands, early progress in ...	1	4
Mackenzie's Travels in Ice- ...	1	396	Trade ...	1	4
land ...	1	396	..... Persecution in ...	1	6
Manufactures, earliest Men- ...	1	13	Nevins, Pim, his Evidence be- ...	1	40
tion of ...	1	13	fore the House of Commons	1	40
Manufactures in Languedoc	1	78	New South Wales, Sheep of ...	1	36
..... India ...	2	297	Newton, Thos., Evidence be- ...	2	127
..... of Woollen and ...	2	390	fore the House of Lords ...	2	127
Worsted ...	2	390	Nichols, Sir J. ...	1	109
Manufacturing Districts, dis- ...	2	2	Norfolk, Sheep of ...	1	26
satisfaction in ...	2	2	Northumberland, Sheep of ...	1	26
Manufactures advantageous to ...	1	228	Norway, Sheep of ...	2	34
Land ...	1	228	Nottidge, Wm., Evidence before ...	2	34
Manufacture, Woollen, pro- ...	2	389	the House of Lords, vol. ii., ...	2	34
cesses described ...	2	389	pp. 123, 129, 143.	2	34
..... Worsted, pro- ...	2	402	Nussey, John, Evidence before ...	1	257
cesses described ...	2	402	the House of Lords, vol. ii., ...	1	257
Manchester, Riots at ...	2	1	pp. 164, 180.	1	257
Materials and Labour, in Wool- ...	1	187	OBSERVATIONS on different ...	1	257
len Manufacture ...	1	187	breeds of Sheep ...	1	257

	Vol.	Page.		Vol.	Page.
Observations on the Report of the Earl of Sheffield	1	477	Productions, Baltic	1	41
----- Evidence before the Privy Council	2	13	Prussia, Quantity of Wool sold at the Fairs of	2	362
Official Value of Woollens exported to Germany	1	271	----- Number of Sheep in	2	361
----- to the British Colonies	1	271	----- Progress in Sheep and Manufactures	1	387
Oldland, George, his Shearing Frame	2	400	----- Live Stock in, 1805	1	355
Oplur, Gold of	1	27	----- Woollen Trade of	1	7
----- Trade with	1	28	Prussian Concessions	1	200
Ornaments, ancient	1	36	----- League	2	363
Ovis Ammonoides	2	321	Prohibition, Effects of	1	73
Ovis Nahoër	2	322	Ptolemy, Philadelphus	1	35
PALMYRA	1	34	Purek Sheep	2	317
Pamphlets on Ireland	1	112	Purple	1	18
Paget's Travels in Hungary	2	364	-----	1	19
Perry, Dr., on Wool	1	365	-----	1	20
Paul, Lewis, his Spinning Machine	1	169	QUESTION of Wool truly stated	1	241
----- Patent for Ditto	1	202	RADCLIFFE's Abstract of Wool Laws	1	257
----- Patent for Carding	1	313	Rags, Importation of	2	179
Peace, Treaty of Utrecht	1	94	Rambouillet, Sheep of	2	261
Peru, Sheep of	1	338	----- Wool of	1	391
Persia, Sheep of	2	296	Rawden, Christi. Evidence in House of Commons	1	325
----- Krazier's Account of	2	297	Rawson & Donisthorpe's Comb- ing Machine	2	404
----- Hanway's Travels in	1	272	Reasons for the immediate Re- peal of the Wool Tax	1	453
Petitions to Parliament	1	179	Refugees from Flanders and France	1	59
-----	1	180	Representation of the State of Ireland, 1750	1	138
-----	2	7	Report of Committee of House of Commons on Branding	1	149
-----	2	457	Report of Select Committee of House of Commons, 1816	1	408
----- from Wool Growers	2	99	Review of Manufacturers' Complaints	1	155
----- from Merchants, &c.	2	100	Revenue, Loss and Gain by Tax	1	461
----- to Parliament	1	146	Richard II., Wool Tax	1	53
Philopatra, Letter of	1	468	Richmond, Duke of, Speech on Wool Trade	2	245
Physiology, Bostock's	2	200	-----	2	204
Philip II., cruel Policy of	1	45	Richmond, Duke of, Statistical Returns of	2	252
Philips, Edward, Letter of	2	78	Riley, James, Evidence of	1	406
Pictorial Bible	1	20	Roberts on Indian Customs	1	16
Pun, Joshua, Examination of	1	331	Robinson, F. L., Chancellor of Exchequer, Speech on Wool Trade	3	44
Pinekeny, William, Evidence before House of Lords, vol. ii. pp. 123, 129, 134, 137	1	97	----- Memorial to	2	60
Plague in France	1	97	----- Meeting with	2	63
Platts's Combining Machine	2	403	----- his Speech in House of Commons	2	63
Pliny on different Colours	1	19	Roman Empire, Commerce of	1	39
Poor Rates, Bradford and Halifax	1	183	Rouvier's Expedition to Spain	2	363
Port Philip, Wool of	2	343	Royle, Dr., on the Productive Resources of India	2	314
Portugal, Trade of	2	432	Russia, Sheep of	2	351
Posteena, Manufacture of	2	247	----- Introduction of Merinos	2	351
Power Looms	1	317	----- Slade's Travels in	2	352
Pownall, Governor, on the Wool- len Trade	1	177	Ryeland Sheep	1	260
Prideaux, Dean, on Ancient Commerce	1	26	SALE of the Flock of Geo. III.	1	350
----- on Silk	1	36	Saxony, Sheep of	1	306
Prince Esterhazy, his Sheep	2	368	Scott, Sir Walter	1	1
Price of Woollens near Halifax	1	186			
Price of Wool, 1708-1813	1	405			
----- 1770-1815	1	407			
----- Cotton, & Flax,	2	96			
Price of South Down Wool and English Wool	2	126			
----- English and Foreign Wool	2	274			
Protecting Duties	1	450			

	Vol.	Page.		Vol.	Page.
Scheme to prevent the running of Irish Wool ...	1	130	Sheppard, Thomas, Evidence before House of Lords, vol. ii., p. 123, 151, 167, 199 ...		
Serge, Manufacture of ...	1	84	Sheppard, Thos., Chairman of the Woollen Trade ...	2	
Shawls, Observations on Cashmere ...	2	312	Sheffield, Earl of, Observations on Trade of American States ...	1	
Sheep, early History of ...	1	5	Observations on the Exportation of Wool, Address at Lewes Wool Fair, ...	1	
early Breeds of ...	1	19	Answer to ...	2	
Long and Short ...	1	1	Shetland, Wool of ...	1	
Fat-tailed ...	1	23	Shuttle, Fly ...	1	
South Down ...	1	251	Shuttle, Description of ...	2	
Method of washing ...	1	384	Silk, early History of ...	1	
Regulation for Feeding and Rearing ...	1	354	Silks of India ...	1	
Change in Weight and Carcase of ...	2	377	Sinclair, Sir John, on Sheep ...	1	
of Angola ...	2	294	Slade's Travels in Germany ...	2	
Asia and Persia ...	2	297	Smuggling Wool from Ireland ...	1	
Asia and Africa ...	2	287	Smith's Memoirs of Wool ...	1	
Abyssinia ...	2	290	on Prohibitory Duties ...	1	
Barbary ...	2	296	on Woollen Manufactures in the reign of Charles II. and William ...	1	
Cape of Good Hope ...	2	291	Smith's Wealth of Nations ...	1	
Ceylon ...	2	329	Soil and Climate, Effect of, on Sheep and Wool ...	1	
China ...	2	329	Somerville, Lord, on Wool and Sheep ...	1	
Congo ...	2	295	Southey's Treatise on Sheep ...	2	
Crimea ...	2	351	Spinning Machine, first mention of ...	1	
Cyprus ...	2	356	Hargreaves's ...	1	
Cumberland, and English Counties ...	1	258	Highs's ...	1	
Denmark ...	2	347	Frame, Arkwright's ...	1	
Egypt and Ethiopia ...	2	290	Description of ...	1	
East India ...	2	318	Wheels, Varieties of ...	1	
Wild, of East Indies ...	2	321	Spain, Godolphin's Treaty with ...	1	
France ...	1	389	Wool exported from ...	1	
Flanders ...	2	350	Trade of ...	2	
Guinea ...	2	296	State of, 1807 ...	1	
Greece ...	2	355	Spanish Sheep, Importation of ...	1	
in Hanover ...	2	349	Breed of ...	1	
Himalaya Mountains ...	2	317	Stanhope's, Earl, Letter to Sheep Farmers ...	2	
Holland ...	2	350	St. Andero, Wool exported from ...	1	
Hungary ...	1	353	Stuffs, manufacture of, 1771 ...	1	
Iceland ...	2	348	Sutcliffe, John, Evidence before House of Lords, vol. ii., pp. 123, 131, 145, 153 ...		
Italy ...	2	356	Swaine on the Wool Trade ...	2	
New Leicester ...	2	370	Joseph, Evidence before House of Lords, vol. ii. p. 149 ...	2	
Moldavia ...	2	355	Sweden, Sheep of ...	1	
Moravia ...	2	355	Swinburne's Account of Eastern Colours ...	1	
Norway ...	2	346	Swinburne's Travels in the Two Sicilies ...	1	
Prussia ...	1	387	Syria, Trade of ...	1	
Peru ...	1	399	TABLE Land in Thibet ...	2	
Purek ...	2	316	Tarentine Sheep ...	1	
Russia ...	2	351	Tarshish, Trade of ...	1	
Savoy ...	2	356	Tax on Foreign Wool ...	1	
Saxony ...	2	363	Teazles ...	2	
Sicily ...	2	356			
Spain ...	1	335			
Sweden ...	2	344			
Switzerland ...	2	356			
Thibet ...	2	298			
Turkey ...	2	356			
Taranto ...	1	346			
Wallachia ...	2	354			
Management and Diseases of ...	2	277			
Sheep Shearing at Holkham ...	1	269			
Woburn ...	1	265			
Farming ...	1	257			
Sheppard, Edw., Letter from ...	2	73			

	Vol.	Page.		Vol.	Page.
Tents of Ancients	1	14	Western, Lord, Letter to Earl		
Thibet, Sheep of	2	298	Spencer	2	376
Thompson, Matthew, Evidence			----- Letter to James		
before the House of Com-			Bischoff	2	380
mons	1	405	----- Management		
Tiftik	2	303	of his Sheep	2	380
Tower, C. J., Evidence before			West of England, Decline of		
House of Lords, vol. ii, pp.			its Trade,	2	416
121, 141,			Westmoreland, Sheep of ...	1	258
Traill's Letter on East India			Wharnccliffe, Lord, his Speech		
Sheep	2	318	in 1825,	2	250
Trimmer on Sheep	2	256	----- his opposi-		
Tucker, Dean, on Wool	1	225	tion to renew the Wool Tax	2	105
Tweedale, Jacob, Evidence			----- his Speech		
before the House of Lords,			in the House of Lords ...	2	202
vol. ii, pp. 154, 178,			Williams on Woollen Manu-		
Tyre, Trade of	1	25	factures	1	390
VANROBAIS', Patent for Making			Willying Machine	2	333
Cloth	1	77	Wiltshire, Sheep of	1	261
Van Diemen's Land, Wool of	2	169	----- Manufacture Estab-		
-----	2	183	lished there	1	49
Varley, John, Evidence before			Wilson's Spinning Machine ...	2	395
House of Lords, vol. ii, pp.			Witnesses Examined before the		
144, 153			House of Lords	2	119
Veritas, Letter from	1	462	Wolrich, Thomas, his Corres-		
Vicuna	1	399	pondence and Information	1	191
Von Thaer, his Management of			Wool, Early History of ...	1	11
Merinos	1	480	----- English and Roman ...	1	46
WAGES, Power and Hand ...	2	268	----- Edward II.	1	53
Wages, Rates of, 1808 to 1838	2	416	----- Smith's Account of ...	1	56
Wages in Woollen & Worsted			----- Fall in Price of	1	80
Trade	2	418	----- Exports and Imports in		
Wales, Sheep of	1	259	Queen Anne's Reign	1	92
Walton on Peruvian Sheep ...	1	398	----- Irish Exported	1	112
Walton on Peruvian Sheep ...	2	336	----- Encouraged without		
Wallace, T., his Measure re-			Exportation	1	253
specting Trade	2	31	----- Imported, 1791, 1797...	1	330
Wallachia, Sheep of	2	354	----- Effect of Soil and		
Walker, Patent for Carding ...	2	394	Climate on	1	382
Walker, Gervase, Evidence			----- Qualities of	1	383
before House of Lords, vol.			----- Long and Short, their		
ii, pp. 134, 169, 172, 176, 195			various uses	2	153
Wansey on the Wool Trade			----- applied to Combing ...	2	154
and Wool	1	253	----- Quantity produced in		
Warehousing Act	2	31	the United Kingdom	2	185
Watt, James	1	314	----- Foreign Qualities of ...	2	191
Weaving Figures	2	414	----- British and Irish ...	2	192
Weaving from Spun Yarn ...	2	407	----- Question considered ...	2	211
Weaving Loom of Hindostan...	2	406	----- and Hair, their close		
Weaving, Art of	2	406	resemblance	2	280
Webb, Charles, Evidence before			----- Trade, by Swaine ...	2	224
the House of Lords, vol. ii,			of Cabool	2	326
pp. 150, 173, 178,			----- of Thibet	2	326
Webber, Samuel, on the Wool-			----- Toorkistan	2	324
len Trade,	1	224	----- Port Philip	2	343
Wellington, Duke of, his course			----- Hungary	2	363
with respect to Committee...	2	109	----- Short	1	187
Wellington, Duke of, Speech	2	203	----- Long	1	188
West India Sheep	2	336	----- Exported	1	242
Westerman, Wm. Price of Wool	1	407	----- Attention paid to ...	1	246
----- Evidence			----- Laws relating to ...	1	257
before the House of Com-			----- Increasing supply from		
mons	1	407	Australia	2	182
Western, C. C., Evidence before			----- Lord Western's Anglo-		
the House of Lords, vol. ii,			Merino	2	375
pp. 128, 137, 142	2	128	----- Laws relating to ...	1	177
			----- Trade, Considerations		
			of the State of	1	219

	Vol.	Page.		Vol.	Page.
Wool, Growers, dissatisfaction of	2	93	Woollens of foreign Countries	2	15
Exportation of, made			Value of	2	25
Felony	1	54	and Worsted Manu-		
Effects of Duties on ...	2	156	facture	2	33
Exports from Spain ...	1	338		2	48
Early History of ...	2	426	Trade	2	43
Sir John Sinclair on			concentrated in York-		
improvement of ...	1	252	shire	2	49
Weight Exported ...	2	245	recent Decline of ...	2	45
of Turkey	2	356	Trade, Correspond-		
Free Trade in, proposed			ence on	2	46
by Earl of Liverpool	2	17	Effect of Duties on	2	156
	2	37	Tax on	1	55
Opinion of Manufac-			exported, 1612, 1613	1	64
turing districts thereon	2	83	1621, 1622,	1	66
Tax, Petition for Repeal of	2	42	1662, 1663,	1	71
Combing	1	214	1772, 1776,	1	176
Wolledge, John, Evidence			1790, 1799,	1	333
before House of Lords, vol. ii.			1816, 1819,	1	459
pp. 122, 136, 142,			1817	2	36
Woollens, early History of ...	1	13	at Florence	1	40
Trade encouraged,			manufacture in the		
by Edward III.	1	46	East Indies	2	296
advanced in Henry			Trade, London Com-		
VII.	1	46	mittee of, 1824	2	57
Woollen Manufacture estab-			Report thereof	2	58
lished in Wilts	1	49	Meeting of	2	66
Woollen Manufacture, Pro-			Manufacture, Pro-		
cesses of	2	402	cesses of	2	388
Woollens, Customs upon ...	1	55	its early		
in Elizabeth's Reign	1	60	Diffusion in Great Britain	2	423
East India Company	1	65	Hist. of	2	431
in William & Mary's	1	85	Worsted Goods, Value of ...	2	20
in Scotland	1	93	Trade	2	402
in Ireland	1	98	Wortley, J. A. S., Esq., M.P.,		
exported, 1718	1	105	Speech in the House of		
superiority of Eng-			Commons	2	35
lish	1	174	pre-		
Table of Value, 1772,			sents Petitions to the House		
1776	1	176	of Commons	2	42
in Yorkshire	1	186	objec-		
importation of, pro-			tion to Exportation of Wool	2	65
hibited in Spain	1	481	Letter from	2	50
proportion of Home			Worthington, J., Letter from	2	80
and Foreign Demand ...	2	171	Wyatt's Spinning Machine ...	1	280
affected by Cottons	1	176	YORKSHIRE, Chapman's Report		
past and present			on	2	417
State of	2	173	Manufactures in	2	430
Value made from			Youatt on Sheep	2	351
foreign Wool	2	176	Young, Arthur	1	223

THE END.





